

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

**Sailor's
hobby keeps
him afloat**

Page 9

John Heredia



**Williams stuns
Dolphins with
retirement**

Page 27

Running back Ricky Williams



**GI couple
found dead
at Fort Hood**

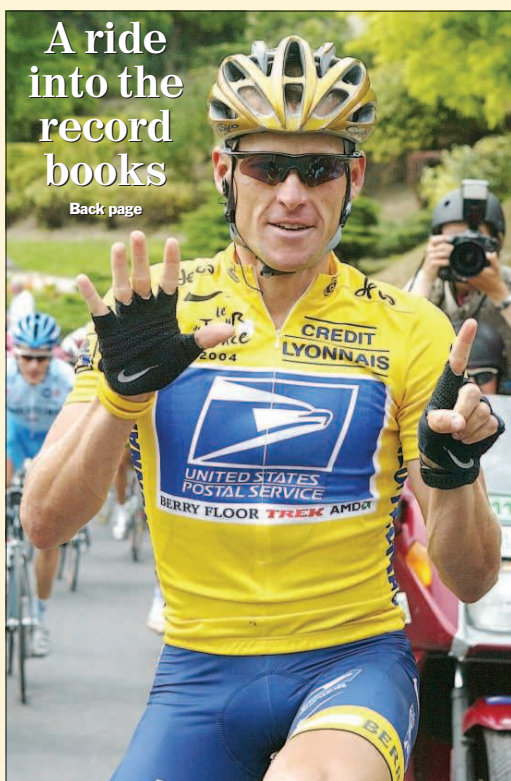
Page 4

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MONDAY, JULY 26, 2004

**A ride
into the
record
books**

Back page



Lance Armstrong signals "six" Sunday after the start of the final stage of the Tour de France between Montreaux and Paris. Armstrong, who eight years ago was given a less than 50 percent chance of surviving testicular cancer, won his sixth consecutive Tour and became the first to win six times.

AP



Democrats gather for convention

■ In Boston, Kerry hopes to push message, sway undecided voters

■ Electoral College math gives slight edge to Bush in projection

Page 14



AP

Military police arrive Sunday at the FleetCenter in Boston to prepare for the Democratic National Convention, which begins Monday.

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STARS AND STRIPES
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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Missing jogger: A Salt Lake City woman who disappeared when she reportedly went out for a jog remained missing Saturday, after days of police efforts that have included cadaver dogs and a search of a municipal landfill.

Salt Lake City Police Detective Dwayne Baird met for more than an hour Saturday with the family of 27-year-old Lori Hacking, who has been missing since Monday and is reportedly five weeks pregnant.

Search coordinators said about 275 volunteers split up Saturday to comb neighborhoods surrounding the area where Hacking was reported missing.

'Pokémon' seizures: Japanese children who had seizures during a "Pokémon" cartoon in 1997 have generally not had another one unless they already had epilepsy, researchers say.

The TV show sent at least 685 Japanese viewers, mostly children, to emergency rooms with symptoms ranging from nausea and hyperventilation to convulsions. They were apparently made sick by a scene with extremely rapid flashes of red and blue.

Dr. Akhisa Okumura and colleagues in Nagoya sent questionnaires to doctors who had treated 103 "Pokémon" patients. Electroencephalograms revealed that 10 of the 13 who had not been diagnosed with epilepsy did, in fact, have the disease.

His findings were published as a letter to the editor in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Clergy sex-abuse settlement: The Springfield, Mass., Diocese will pay at least \$80,000 to each of the 46 people who accused priests of molesting them while they were children under a proposed settlement worth more than \$7 million, a lawyer said Friday.

Lawyer John Stobierski, who represents the accusers, said the amount received will depend on the type of alleged abuse and how long it lasted, with an average award expected to be around \$165,000.

World

Mideast fighting: Six armed Palestinians were killed in a clash with Israeli forces in the West Bank town of Tulikarem after night-fall Sunday, Israeli border police officials said.

Also Sunday, Palestinians fired mortar shells at the Jewish settlement of Neve Dekalim in the Gaza Strip at dusk, wounding five people, rescue workers and the military said.

British terror information kits: Britain's top law enforcement official said Sunday he is preparing to issue a booklet with advice on what to do in case of a terrorist attack or a civil emergency.

Home Secretary David Blunkett said the pamphlet was inspired by information kits issued by the Australian government last year.

Blunkett said the pamphlet contains information on first aid and advises on what supplies Britons should have on hand in case of an emergency. The BBC said the booklets would be issued starting this week.

Afghan elections: President Hamid Karzai on Sunday postponed a visit to Pakistan, winning time for last-minute work on



Train derailment in Turkey: German transport experts and Turkish officials Sunday examine the railway and the wreckage of an express train that derailed in Sakarya, Turkey, on Thursday, killing 37 people. Germans were called in by Turkish officials anxious to quell criticism that the government backed the rail project despite known risks.

his nomination for upcoming elections.

Karzai was supposed to begin a two-day visit in Islamabad on Monday, but the Pakistani Foreign Ministry said he called Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf on Sunday to request a delay.

Karzai's spokesman, Jawed Ludin, said he would remain in Kabul to submit his forms to election officials on Monday, the deadline for nominations.

French workweek: Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said France's 35-hour workweek stemmed from a "bad law" in need of change.

President Jacques Chirac said earlier this month he favored reforming the 35-hour workweek to make it easier for workers wanting to earn more money to work longer hours. The current law requires employees to pay up to 50 percent more for additional hours.

But Raffarin also warned companies against using threats to win concessions from unions.

Reports of Jenkins' plea-bargain: Tokyo hopes to reach a solution with Washington soon in the case of former U.S. soldier Charles Jenkins, Japan's foreign minister said Sunday, amid reports a plea-bargain was in the works.

Jenkins, who is undergoing tests at a Tokyo hospital, is wanted by the Army for allegedly abandoning his South Korean post in 1965 and defecting to North Korea.

"Through discussion, we aim to find a solution as quickly as possible," Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi told a NHK public broadcaster.

Kawaguchi's comments came amid reports that Japanese officials are pressing Jenkins to enter a plea-bargain as the best way of ensuring he is eventually able to settle in Japan with his Japanese wife, Hitomi Soga, and their two North Korean-born

daughters.

Diana divorce settlement: Princess Diana "took every penny" that Prince Charles had as part of their divorce settlement, said the prince's former financial adviser was quoted as saying by a Sunday newspaper.

Geoffrey Bignell told The Sunday Telegraph that Charles handed over his entire personal fortune when the settlement was made in 1996 — a year before Diana died in a Paris car crash.

He did not reveal the amount of the payment, but at the time it was widely reported to be between \$25 million and \$33 million. "He was very unhappy about that," Bignell said. "... She took him to the cleaners."

Tamil Tiger killings: Eight suspected members of a breakaway faction of the Tamil Tiger rebels were shot dead as they slept in a suburb of Sri Lanka's capital, police said Sunday.

There was no sign of a gunfight at the isolated house where the men were found sprawled on mats on the floor, police officer Wickrama Perera told The Associated Press.

War on terrorism

Pakistan arrests: Police and intelligence agencies raided a suspected terrorist hide-out in eastern Pakistan on Sunday, arresting at least 12 people after a prolonged gun battle, officials said.

At least four of those arrested in the raid in Gujrat were foreigners, said Saadatullah Khan, the chief of police for Punjab province, where Gujrat is located.

It was not clear what the suspects were accused of doing, or what group they belonged to.

Stories and photo from wire services

Messages of Support

★ Acari glad that you are doing something great for your country by being deployed. You've stayed a good friend to me for awhile now and even though things done separated us some, like

deployments, relationships, and a few arguments. I want you to know you made a good impression on me cause you are an good person at heart. Make the best of things over there and stay safe. Your Friend From Ft. Lewis

★ Nathan, I want to wish you the best for the rest of your time overseas. As a dedicated hard working soldier/leader in the military what you do day to day isn't going unappreciated. Now that I wish you the best and I'll see you soon Love Tonya

U.S., Iraqi forces kill 15 militants in five-hour cash

BY PAUL GARWOOD

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. and Iraqi troops backed by heavy artillery and helicopters killed 15 insurgents in fighting Sunday that began in palm groves and ended in dusty city streets amid a surge of violence across this war-ravaged country.

In other violence, insurgents assassinated a former government official in Baghdad, killed a U.S. soldier in a roadside bombing and gunned down five people in a spate of attacks in Kirkuk, northern Iraq.

The carnage came as Iraqis in Baghdad began choosing delegates to a three-day national conference considered a key step in moving the country toward democracy.

The conference, which will select 80 of 100 international Assembly members, is scheduled for this week. Organizers refused to confirm the location — and even the exact date of the conference, fearing it will be a terror attack target.

Militants angry at the presence of foreign forces here and bent on derailing efforts to restore order to Iraq following more than two decades of Saddam Hussein's rule have waged a 15-month insurgency, marked by bombings, assassinations and kidnappings.

A raid Sunday against insurgents in Buhzir, a former Saddam stronghold about 40 miles north of Baghdad, turned into a five-hour battle between militants and U.S. and Iraqi forces.

Military spokesman Maj. Neal O'Brien said the clashes sparked when U.S. and Iraqi National Guard troops conducted a sweep of palm groves believed to be a staging area for anti-coalition attacks.

Insurgents using small arms attacked the Iraqi forces, who chased the attackers into the town's southern areas, the U.S. military said. Iraqi fighters later fired mortars indiscriminately, and the Americans responded with an artillery barrage.

Associated Press Television News recorded several loud explosions, apparently from artillery and mortar fire, booming through Buhzir and bullets ricocheting off building and shop windows.

Residents ran for cover as a U.S. Apache helicopter hovered overhead.

Iraqi fighters, mostly clad in black clothing and ski masks, roamed the streets carrying rifles and rocket propelled grenade launchers.

The military said 15 insurgents were killed.

Qayser Hameed, an emergency worker at the nearby Baquba general Hospital, said two dead Iraqis — a police officer and a civilian — plus six injured civilians were brought to hospital.

It was unclear if the two killed were in addition to those the military reported killed. Yasir Ahmed Ismail, the slain police officer, died in his house when a mortar hit nearby, said police Lt. Mohammed Adel.

The battle followed a U.S. soldier's death Saturday in a roadside bomb attack near Beiji, about 90 miles south of the northern city of Mosul, the military said Sunday.

The soldier, escorting a fuel convoy, suffered serious wounds and died later Saturday. Another soldier was injured.

In Baghdad's al-Dora suburb, gunmen killed Brig. Khaled Dawoud, the former head of Nahiyah district in southern Iraq during Saddam's rule, and his son in a drive-by shooting Sunday, police Lt. Mustafa Abdullah al-Dulaimi said.

Meanwhile, an important Sunni religious group on Sunday condemned the separate abductions of an Egyptian diplomat and seven foreign truck drivers last week.

Militants said they snatched Mohammed Mamdouh Helmi Qutb, the third-ranking diplomat at the Egyptian mission here, to deter Egypt from sending security assistance to Iraq's interim government.



Hassan Abid Ali looks at the debris left after an insurgent's mortar hit his family's home in Abu Al Khasab, 18 miles south of Barah, Iraq, on Sunday.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 899 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 665 died as a result of hostile action and 234 died of nonhostile causes. The department did not provide an update Saturday.

The British military has reported 60 deaths. Italy has reported 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; and Thailand, two. Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 761 U.S. servicemen have died — 556 as a result of hostile action and 205 of nonhostile causes.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ A Marine died Saturday of injuries received in action Friday in Iraq's Anbar Province.

The latest identifications reported by the Department of Defense:

■ No identifications reported.

Al-Qaida threatens Australia with 'pools of blood'

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — An online statement by a group representing itself as al-Qaida's European branch threatened on Saturday to turn Australia into "pools of blood" if it doesn't withdraw its troops from Iraq.

It was the second statement in a week by the Tawhid Islamic Group, a previously unknown group which on Wednesday threatened attacks in Bulgaria and Poland if their troops remained in Iraq.

"We call upon you to leave Iraq before your country turns to pools of blood," the statement warned the Australian government.

"We will shake the earth under your feet as we did in Indonesia, and lines of car bombs will not cease, God willing," the statement

said, referring to the 2002 Bali bombing that killed 202 people, many of them Australian tourists.

The al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah was blamed for that attack.

The Tawhid statement also warned Italy to comply with an earlier warning.

"We advise you to accept our offer and if you don't, you will see the lines of cars laden with explosives hit your towns and turn your nights to mornings, God willing. We swear you will see hell with your eyes," the Tawhid statement said.

The statement did not elaborate on what offer it was referring to, but earlier this month, the al-Qaida-linked Brigades of Abu Hafs al-Masri that had threatened a massive strike unless Premier Silvio Berlusconi — a

India asks for release of hostages

BY NIRMALA GEORGE

The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — India made a fresh appeal Sunday for the release of three Indian truck drivers held hostage in Iraq, pleading with their captors to "honor the Islamic way of thinking toward innocents" and citing the centuries-old ties between the two countries.

"The people of India have great faith in the people of Iraq," E. Ahamed, India's junior minister for external affairs, said in the appeal, which he read out in the Arabic language.

"The historical and traditional relationship between the people of Iraq and India is based on mutual trust, confidence and brotherhood," Ahamed said.

An Iraqi group calling itself "The Holders of the Black Banners" last week threatened to behead one captive every 72 hours, beginning Saturday night, if the truck drivers' Kuwaiti employer did not halt operations in Iraq and the hostages' country did not withdraw all its citizens from Iraq.

It added those demands Friday, saying their employer must pay compensation for those killed by U.S. forces in the city of Fallujah and all Iraqi detainees in Kuwait and U.S. prisons must be released. It gave a 48-hour deadline, but it was unclear if the deadline had been changed to Sunday or if the tape was old.

"Islam teaches everybody to be just and fair and the people of India expect that captors will also honor the Islamic way of thinking toward the innocents," Ahamed said in Sunday's appeal.

Indian officials were holding consultations with their Kuwaiti counterparts about the hostages, the minister said.

"We expect a positive outcome," Ahamed said.

Militants in recent months have kidnapped nearly 70 foreigners in their campaign to force countries to withdraw troops and to scare away contractors working on reconstruction projects. At least three hostages have been beheaded, a practice that has stirred opposition from many Iraqis.

staunch supporter of President Bush — was removed from office.

Saturday's statement appeared on an Islamic Web site known as a clearing house for al-Qaida and groups linked to the terror network. The group identified itself as "al-Qaida in Europe." The authenticity of the statement and the group could not be verified.

The statement said Australia should follow the model of the Philippines and Spain, which have already pulled their troops out of Iraq.

"It is the right path which will ensure your safe life and security," it said.

"You came to our lands to loot its wealth and God willing we will move the battle to your country as you did to our countries, not only in Australia, but all Islamic and Arab countries," the statement read.

Australia has nearly 900 troops in and around Iraq.

Philippine official attacks critics

Security adviser says Philippines not to blame for new threats in Iraq

BY JIM GOMEZ
The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines lashed out Sunday at Australian accusations that its troop withdrawal from Iraq had sparked a new wave of kidnappings in the war-ravaged country, saying Australia should focus instead on the reasons fueling the insurgency.

The United States and Australia have strongly criticized Manila for withdrawing its token peacekeeping contingent a month early in response to demands by Iraqi insurgents who threatened to behead Filipino hostage Angelo dela Cruz. The captive was freed and returned to a hero's welcome in the country last week.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer on Sunday accused the Philippines of caving in to terrorists after the al-Qaeda-linked Tawhid Islamic Group threatened to turn Australia into "pools of blood" unless it recalled its troops from Iraq.

The group posted the statement online Saturday.

Downer said that because the Philippines capitulated to the terrorists, six more hostages were taken in Iraq the day after dela Cruz was freed.

"Unfortunately these actions have encouraged terrorists to continue these threats, so now we are subjected, as the Italians are and the Poles and the Bulgarians from this particular group, to further threats," Downer told Nine Network television. "It's very important we send a strong message that we will not be threatened by terrorist groups."

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's national security adviser, Norberto Gonzalez, lashed back at Downer for linking the new

threat and kidnappings to the Philippine troop withdrawal.

"It's very narrow-minded," Gonzalez said.

Instead of looking for scapegoats, Australia and other countries in the coalition that invaded Iraq should re-examine why the insurgency there has intensified in recent months despite efforts to quell it militarily and politically, Gonzalez said. He didn't elaborate.

He also said Australia should try to understand the predicament of the Philippines, which wanted to ensure the safety of its workers in the Middle East, including 4,000 in Iraq who could provide more help to rebuild Iraq than the 51-member peacekeeping force that was withdrawn.

"Australia should look not only at its interest but consider our interest too. Our condition is different, we have over a million Filipinos scattered in the Middle East and we need to safeguard them," he said.

While the Philippines sent only a token peacekeeping force in Iraq, Gonzalez cited his country's efforts to fight terrorism in Southeast Asia through cooperation with neighboring nations, including joint counterterrorism training with U.S. troops to better fight foreign extremists in the country.

The Philippines originally sent 100 peacekeepers to Iraq but the number had dwindled to 51 when the hostage crisis erupted.

Seeking to ease strained ties with Washington, Arroyo on Friday reassured the United States and other allies that the Philippines remains committed to the global war on terrorism.

"Our foreign policy has not changed," Arroyo said. "We share the same goal, but we may not always walk the same path."

forces on multiple compounds," reads an Army statement.

All four soldiers are expected to recover.

The violence is the latest in a string of incidents in southern Afghanistan in recent days.

A roadside bomb narrowly missed shredding a U.S. military-protected aid convoy in the same part of southern Afghanistan Thursday.

While no one was hurt in that incident, at least one U.S. soldier was wounded in an attack on Friday as a U.S. Army convoy passed through Kandahar.

Email Jon Anderson at: andersonj@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Purple Hearts awarded



Spc. Damon Le is one of five 1st Infantry Division soldiers to receive a Purple Heart from U.S. Army Europe Commander Gen. S.B. Belt on July 19 at Würzburg Army Hospital, Le, of Company A, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, was injured July 8.

REBECCA SHARPTON
Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Fort Hood GIs killed in murder-suicide

The Associated Press

KILLEEN, Texas — Two Fort Hood soldiers, husband and wife, were found dead in what appeared to be a murder-suicide, authorities said Saturday.

Authorities found Sgt. Erin E. Edwards' body on the front porch of her home early Thursday. She had been shot in the head, Capt. Jackie Dunn said.

The body of Edwards' estranged husband, Sgt. William M. Edwards, was discovered in a parking lot across the street. Police said he suffered what appeared to be a self-inflicted wound.

The soldiers, both 24, had served with the 4th Infantry Division in Iraq before returning to Fort Hood in recent months.

The couple's two young chil-

dren were not home at the time of the shootings, and were believed to be with their mother's family in Pennsylvania, officials said.

In June, William Edwards was arraigned on an assault charge for allegedly hurting his wife. A protection order was issued against him in the past week.

Neighbors told the Killeen Daily Herald police were frequently at the couple's residence because of domestic problems.

Army sergeant to be court-martialed for allegedly carjacking SUV in Iraq

BY KIMBERLY HEFLING

The Associated Press

The directive at the core of U.S. reconstruction efforts in Iraq was simple: Win hearts and minds.

But supporters of one soldier, Sgt. 1st Class James Williams, say Army efforts to win the good will of Iraqis ended with charges that could send him to prison.

Williams, 37, is accused of carjacking at gunpoint a sport utility vehicle driven by the son of an influential sheik in Mosul, Iraq, in April 2003 — less than a week before President Bush declared an end to major combat.

But Williams' defense says the vehicle was properly "commandeered" under the military's wartime rules of engagement after two of the platoon's Humvee broke down.

Williams is to appear Monday at Fort Campbell in Kentucky for a court-martial on charges of armed robbery and willful dereliction of duty. The father of two and veteran of both Iraq wars faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

"I think it's important to them to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people, and I think Jim, in addition to a lot of other people, are being used," said Alice Wineberger, Williams' sister.

"The Army should be supporting my brother, not turning its back on him."

Williams' defenders claim the soldier was simply following orders to find a vehicle to replace one of the Humvees. The Army has said his actions amounted to robbery.

"The accused's actions were an unjustified and indefensible criminal act of robbery," said a statement released by the 101st Airborne Division. "Taking civilian property in wartime is a very sensitive matter that may jeopardize the successful accomplishment of the overall mission."

Another soldier already has been convicted in the case and sentenced to prison. A lieutenant also faces a court-martial.

According to court papers filed by Williams' attorney, the SUV was weaving in an out of traffic and stopped only after being chased for five miles by another sergeant in Williams' platoon.

When Williams approached the scene, Staff Sgt. Alberto Lozano had the driver on the ground, the documents said. Williams then ordered the soldiers to leave because a crowd was gathering, and Lozano drove the SUV away, according to the defense papers.

The SUV was used for several days by the command staff in plain view, said Bernard Casey, Williams' attorney.

The U.S. government later paid Sheik Ahmed W. Al-Faisal \$32,000 for the vehicle.

"There is no evidence that I am aware of that Sgt. Williams at any time thought he was doing anything wrong, and that at all times the evidence is he was doing what was expected of him under the circumstances," Casey said.

Prosecutors, however, have said special orders were given in Mosul forbidding the use of civilian vehicles. Williams' brigade commander, Col. Joseph Anderson, has testified that the rules of engagement had been changed to prohibit it.

The defense said Williams was never told that.

Wineberger, Williams' sister, believes the only mistake Williams made was not giving a receipt when the soldiers left in the SUV, which they had been instructed to do early in the war if they took a civilian vehicle for military purposes.

Williams, of rural Westmoreland County, Va., and a member of the 526th Engineer Battalion, was not available to comment, his attorney said.

In October, Lozano was found guilty of robbery and making a false statement. He was sentenced to 2½ years in prison and received a bad-conduct discharge from the Army.

A court-martial for Lt. Bradley Hawlik is scheduled Aug. 9 on charges including being an accessory to robbery. His attorney did not return a call for comment.

U.S. Apaches mistakenly fire on Afghan soldiers; 4 injured

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — A pair of U.S. AH-64 Apache gunships mistakenly fired on Afghan National Army soldiers, wounding four, early Sunday morning, according to Army officials.

The friendly-fire incident occurred just before dawn in the Taliban stronghold of Uzuqin province.

"ANA and coalition soldiers were conducting cordon and search operations of surrounding villages in the area when they came under fire by [anti-coalition]



PHOTOS BY RICK EMERY/Stars and Stripes

Taking a break to have a ball

Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — About 60 soldiers took part in the 1st Cavalry Division Equal Opportunity Office Sports Day at Baghdad International Airport on Saturday.

The event was to include volleyball and tug-of-war tournaments, but the tug-of-war event was cancelled.

Saturday evening, troops were treated to a Harley-Davidson bikers' rally, which was expected to draw up to 300 people. The event offered giveaways from stateside motorcycle companies.

The day's events wrapped up with a talent show.

The volleyball tournament "was a very good chance for soldiers to have some positive morale time," said Sgt. 1st Class Leah Ruzynski, 477th Medical Company. "It took a little of the tension away."

For others, it was an escape from the day-to-day routine.

"I play volleyball a lot in my normal life," said Spc. Justin Krage, also from the 477th Medical Company. "This brought me back home a little. It was a release to take me away from Iraq for a while."



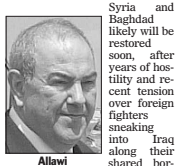
Iraq, Syria say diplomatic ties to be restored

Iraqi premier says two nations will form panel to study security issues

BY ZEINA KARAM

The Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Iraq's interim leader said Saturday that diplomatic relations between



Allawi

Syria and Baghdad likely will be restored soon, after years of hostility and recent tension over foreign fighters sneaking into Iraq along their shared border.

Speaking to reporters after meeting with the Syrian president, Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said new formal ties "will surely happen."

"Relations will be restored and they will be strong," Allawi said. "It is clear that our visit here is

the beginning of a bright chapter in relations between our two brotherly people. We are opening a new page with Syria."

Syria's official news agency, SANA, said Allawi and Syrian President Bashar Assad agreed to resume diplomatic relations "as soon as possible."

The two countries broke off ties in the early 1980s when war began between Iraq and Iran. Allawi also said both leaders formed a joint committee to study security issues.

"It is clear that our visit here is the beginning of a bright chapter in relations between our two brotherly people."

Ayad Allawi

Iraqi prime minister

Syrian Prime Minister Najib al-Otari said his country would do everything in its power to "achieve security and stability in Iraq."

He said both countries had agreed on the importance of "safeguarding Iraq's unity... restoring its full sovereignty, and doing what is necessary to end the foreign occupation."

Syria long had been a haven for Iraqis opposed to Saddam Hussein. Yet, it was one of the strongest and most vocal opponents of the U.S.-led war on Iraq and greeted Allawi's government with suspicion, questioning whether it was a U.S. puppet regime.

The United States repeatedly has accused Syria of allowing or not doing enough to stop infiltration of Muslim insurgents at the Syrian border with Iraq.

Syria has denied accusations it was allowing foreign Islamic militants to enter Iraq from its territories, but it also said it cannot thoroughly police its border with its eastern neighbor.

The undersecretary of the Iraqi Finance Ministry, Sabah Aouni, said continuing discussions between the two countries would include Iraqi assets frozen in Syrian banks since the coalition toppled Saddam's regime. Previous estimates had placed the figure at up to \$500 million, but Aouni said the figure stood at more than \$1 billion.

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support



My house and flags, are so true, it's for you, the true Red White Blue. She waves so strong with all her might. The stars at night shine so bright. The morning dawn, we look to see. Our flag so bright, May she wave proudly though the night. Show us what your made of, show us all your night. Show us how your going to defend us though the fight. V. Fyke. PS. Im backing you all the way, I'm so proud of you. US Navy Wife



God bless all the men and women in the army forces. May all of you have a safe journey at this time. I support all of you. God Bless America. Linda



To all our service men. I am so proud of all of you. Forget about those jerks who are parading around screaming about peace. Most of them are Hollywood losers who have never been in any armed service and have never supported our country. I'm a wife, mother and grandmother. You are fighting so my grandchildren will be able to continue to have the freedom that we have had in the past. Thank you so very much. Love, Dallas Davis



To ALL the men and women serving our country: THANK YOU! God bless you all! Come home safe! Brandi. Brownsville, KY



To all american soliders, my name is Joshua I am 10 years old and i live in Sinton Tx. i just wanted to tell ya'll that my family and i are praying for ya'll. We pray for ya'll every night. Joshua O.



This country recognizes and thanks all serving in our Armed Forces and the Coalition Forces for the courageous sacrifices that they are making and for the honor of their service which defines America. Upon your return home you will find a country united, not of one voice or thought, but a country united under a belief. The belief that a nation can rise to greatness from nothing, so eloquently stated in the following words...

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

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Dutch release Syrian

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — Judges ordered the release of a Syrian man on Friday, saying there was insufficient evidence to continue holding him on suspicions he was planning an attack against U.S. soldiers in the Netherlands.

The 37-year-old Syrian was arrested July 17 and remains a suspect, prosecutors said Friday. His name has not been released.

The man's lawyer, Jorg Gerrits, told Dutch television his client was suspected of being a member of al-Qaida.

Gerrits said his client was innocent, but had been accused of plotting to plant a bomb to hurt U.S. troops participating in the annual "Nijmegen Four Days" march, which ended Friday without incident.

About 330 U.S. soldiers and 1,140 British soldiers participated in the hike, which each year attracts about 50,000 hikers and nearly a million visitors to the Dutch city of Nijmegen, 80 miles southeast of Amsterdam.

A homeless 33-year-old Libyan also remains a suspect in the case, though he was quickly released after his arrest on July 17.

The Libyan's lawyer, Arzu Kilic, said last week her client was offered money to plant a bomb, but refused. He was then arrested after reporting what had happened to the police, she said.

Prosecutors said their investigation was continuing. Neither suspect has been formally charged.

New Kazakh barracks

ALMATY, Kazakhstan — U.S. and Kazakh officials on Friday inaugurated a new barracks, built by the United States for Kazakh troops protecting the Central Asian nation's interests in the oil-rich Caspian Sea.

The \$19 million project is part of U.S. assistance to modernize Kazakhstan's military infrastructure, the U.S. Embassy said in a statement.

The barracks were built in the Kazakh oil capital, Atyrau, by U.S. military engineering troops and Kazakh construction companies, the embassy said.

Under a military cooperation agreement signed last year, the United States pledged to help Kazakhstan step up security in its section of the Caspian Sea, in the country's west. The assistance includes training and equipment, such as radar and other surveillance devices.

Kazakhstan shares the Caspian Sea with Azerbaijan, Iran, Russia and Turkmenistan.

From The Associated Press



UNIAN ORLANDO/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

A firetruck at Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany, plows through more than six inches of water near the base exchange on Friday about an hour after a storm dumped 1 1/2 inches of rain in less than 90 minutes.

Rhein-Main mops up flood damage

Base opens temporary passenger terminal; space-available travel cancelled in interim

BY JESSICA INIGO
Stars and Stripes

RHEIN-MAIN AIR BASE, Germany — Two days after heavy rains flooded one of the busiest U.S. Air Force passenger terminals in Germany, volunteers continued cleaning up, as flight operations picked up at an alternate location.

Friday night's 1 1/2-inch downfall in less than 90 minutes caused drain systems all over the base to overflow, with water pouring into buildings from backed up roof and sewer drains, air conditioning systems, and even through fire escape vents.

Operations have moved from the terminal to Building 441, a warehouse that once was used for Air Postal operations. The terminal should be open again by Tuesday, according to base officials.

Volunteers and contractors are busy pumping water out of carpets, mopping up excess water and helping dry out ceilings and ducts.

"Yesterday it was so bad no one knew where to begin," said Senior Airman Cameron Riley, who is one of 15 volunteers from the Security Forces section helping to get the terminal back running. "There was water everywhere, ceiling tiles were all over the floor, and we were in the dark."

The excessive water damage also caused electrical, fire alarm and air conditioning problems within the terminal, according to Maj. Shawn Moore, the base engineer and civil engineering commander.

The initial clean up should be done within 72 hours, said Moore. Getting the terminal back to its former condition could take three to four months of work, Moore said, but he wouldn't speculate on the long-term costs. He said base officials would take into consideration the fact that the base is closing in 1 1/2 years when deciding what to replace in the terminal.

All cargo and passenger operations continued throughout the storm and the temporary closure of the terminal, but space-available flights are discontinued until the terminal is reopened. Also, flight information and customer service numbers are down while the terminal works out of the old warehouse.

"The most impressive thing about all this is that the team kept going without a hitch. They pulled together after a major catastrophe in a



MATT SUMMERS/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Four inches of water covers the Gate 1 area of the Rhein-Main passenger terminal.

matter of hours," said Brig. Gen. Rosanne Bailey, Ramstein Air Base's 435th Wing commander who visited the damaged site Sunday. "I attribute this to the people who work together every day, great leadership from the top to the bottom, great dedicated members, and the best Air Force in the world."

Friday's flood also affected many basements and first floors on Rhein-Main and in the Gateway Gardens housing area.

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: inigoj@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Messages of Support

★ To Marine R. Duprey: You are in my prayers for a safe return home. Loveyou, Aunt Cheryl D.

★ I've been thinking about ALL of you and praying for your safety. I've cried through a lot of the news and especially anything about missing, being a POW or being killed. I get mad when I see the protests going on all over the world. This war isn't just for the safety of Americans, but it's for the safety of the entire world. People don't understand that we don't know everything about what's going on and if we did, we'd all be afraid. I admire our president and I believe he's doing everything in his power to make this a safer world. Two

wonderful Marines stayed with us until they left for Kuwait a few months ago. I wanted them to relax when they were off the base. They spent their last night of "freedom" with us and it broke my heart. Now their picture of having dinner with us flashes on my screen saver as a reminder. My son is getting ready to go over there too and he's my only child. My mom and dad were in The Air Force for 20 years, so I understand military life. I grew up watching the news every night about Viet Nam. I want you to know how everyone admires you for being so brave and staying strong through all of this. Thank you for everything you do for us. xoxoxo, With love, Kim P.S. Please take good care of yourself and I hope you come back home soon!

★ To all service personnel from Molalla, and the Greater Willamette Valley (Oregon) thank you. Your efforts and sacrifices are greatly appreciated. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and yours. Be safe. Paul and Eleanor. Oregon

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Report: USAF buying planes that don't perform

Lockheed Martin, Air Force disagree with Pentagon on C-130J

BY MATT KELLEY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Air Force continues to order a new type of cargo plane despite spending \$2.6 billion to buy 50 planes that do not meet the military's requirements and cannot be flown in combat zones, Pentagon investigators said.

Contractor Lockheed Martin hasn't delivered any C-130J planes that met requirements in the eight years since the program began, the report said. The Air Force and Lockheed Martin disagree.

Problems with the propeller-driven cargo planes include faulty computer and diagnostic systems and inadequate defense measures, the Pentagon's Office of Inspector General concluded.

So far, none of the planes has been cleared for some of their primary missions: Dropping troops and cargo into war zones and flying in conditions requiring the crew to wear night-vision goggles.

The inspector general's report concluded that Air Force and Defense Department officials mismanaged the program, requir-

ing millions of dollars in upgrades and thousands of hours of work to make the planes capable of performing as well as the aging models they're supposed to replace.

The Air Force strongly denied the report's conclusions.

Marvin Sambur, the Air Force's top acquisition official, wrote to the investigators that the program is within its cost, schedule and contract guidelines. Lockheed Martin has started delivering planes that meet Air Force specifications and the necessary upgrades have either been completed or scheduled, Sambur wrote.

"While some of the facts presented in the DOD/IG report are accurate, the findings and conclusions ascribed to these facts cannot be supported," Sambur wrote in response to the inspector general's office. "The Air Force fully endorses the C-130J program."

Lockheed Martin spokesman Jeff Rhodes said Friday the company agrees with the Air Force.

"The Air Force, ultimately the end user who is flying the aircraft, also says that the C-130J program is meeting cost, schedule,

contract and regulatory commitments," Rhodes said in an e-mail statement.

Two Air Force squadrons haven't been able to perform their missions for more than four years because they only have C-130Js, the report said. The 815th Air Squadron at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi and the 135th Airlift Squadron of the Maryland Air National Guard are supposed to drop troops and supplies into hostile areas.

Five other Air Force and Marine units have the C-130J planes but use older C-130s to perform their missions, the report said.

Air Force testers found so many problems with the planes they stopped evaluations in 2000 so the problems they already found could be fixed, the report said.

The Air Force continues to order more C-130Js despite problems. The military is buying the planes as a commercial item — a process designed to allow the military to purchase goods on the open market that need few modifications for military use.

That process gives the Air Force less oversight and fewer cost controls, the inspector general's report says.



USAF/AP

Pentagon investigators say the Air Force has spent \$2.6 billion to buy 50 C-130J cargo planes from Lockheed Martin that don't meet specifications and can't perform their combat missions.



ROBERT LABERGE/Getty Images

Olympic U.S. speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno will be visiting air bases in Europe as part of the Extreme Summer program.

'Fastest man on ice' to visit USAF bases

Stars and Stripes

Sometimes, life in the fast lane can leave you cold.

That can actually be a good thing. It certainly hasn't been bad for Olympic gold medalist and speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno, reputed to be the "fastest man on ice."

Ohno is coming to air bases in August to promote the Extreme Summer '04 program.

He began his career at the age of 13, when he was spotted speed skating at a rink in his hometown of Seattle by the coach of the U.S. National Speed Skating Team. Ohno then moved to the Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid, N.Y., to train full time. A year later — at just 14 — Ohno won the national overall title.

Ohno has since earned both gold and silver medals at the 2002 Olympics, received an endorsement contract from Nike and was named one of People Magazine's 50 Most Beautiful People for 2003. Ohno credits his father, extreme training and dedication for his success.

"I am very excited to be a part of the Air Force tour," Ohno said. "I feel a similar connection with the Air Force in representing the United States, because I was a part of the Olympic Games and also through many international competitions. It will be an honor to meet all of these men and women who dedicate themselves to our country."

To register for an Extreme Summer, visit www.extremesummer.com. The program is sponsored in part by Coca-Cola, Stars and Stripes, Walt Disney World Resorts, Exchange New Car Sales, Hockenheimring, Armed Forces Recreation Centers, Xbox, and NASCAR Speedway Children's Charities.

Ohno will appear in Britain at RAF Mildenhall on Aug. 3, RAF Menwith Hill on Aug. 4, RAF Alconbury on Aug. 5, RAF Croughton on Aug. 6 and RAF Fairford on Aug. 7.

He will also appear at Stavanger, Norway, on Aug. 9 and AFRC Garmisch, Germany, on Aug. 10.

Strykers make debut on Hawaii

WAIKIEA, Hawaii — Big Island residents on Saturday got a first look at the eight-wheeled armored assault vehicles at the heart of the Army's transformation of its Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division (Light) into a Stryker Brigade.

Two of the Stryker vehicles were on display and about a dozen soldiers were on hand to talk about them at Kohala-Waikiea Airport, not far from the Army's Pohakuloa Training Area where the vehicles will train after being phased in on Oahu in 2006.

The 20-ton tank-like armored vehicles were on display in Hilo on Sunday before going back to Oahu, where the public will have three separate chances to see the Strykers up close.

Marine veteran Michael Okunami of Honokaa said he was impressed.

"It's very solid," he said. "I'm glad they have something like this. Go for it."

The Stryker Brigade is key to the Pentagon's goal of making the Army a quicker, more versatile force. Hawaii's brigade of 291 Stryker vehicles would be the fifth of six planned nationwide.

From wire services



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One man's trash is another man's treasure

Signonella chief petty officer combs beaches around the world for glass fishing floats

BY KENDRA HELMER
Stars and Stripes

While strolling along beaches, John Herrera scans for glass. What appears to be junk to a novice beachcomber is treasure to the chief petty officer in Signonella, Sicily. For six years, he has drifted from beach to beach, hunting glass fishing floats used by fishermen in the 1800s and early 1900s.

The Mangilao, Guam, native has amassed a collection of more than 1,500 floats in a rainbow of colors and shapes.

Herrera got hooked Dec. 7, 1997. His master chief in Misawa, Japan, invited him to search for floats. Where the ocean lacked the sand, Herrera found a blue-green float, 14 inches in diameter.

"That was a remarkable day for me," said Herrera, 43. "It's like a kid in the candy store."

Every weekend after that, he combed the beaches in Japan. And after fishing for information, he uncovered their story.

The use of glass fishing floats traces as far back as 1840 to Norway. Their use spread around 1910 to the Far East. Ten years later, cork and aluminum floats appeared.

Collectors surf the Internet, scour beaches and rummage through shops and markets searching for the elusive floats.

"It's the chase that's keeping me going, the chance of getting that rare one or things I haven't seen," said the aviation administrationman for Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center.



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN P. WEAVER/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

John Herrera, chief aviation maintenance administrationman, displays a small portion of his collection of glass fishing floats, which he has been collecting since 1997.

He regularly corresponds with collectors in the northwest United States, a hot spot for the floats, where he plans to retire.

His wife, Joyce, initially wasn't thrilled by his hobby. "He was so obsessed with it, it was scary," she said. "For me at first it was junk, debris — especially when he has to wake up at 4 in the morning. I'd just go with him, stay in the car and read my book."

But the travel agent became more supportive of his pursuit when she realized it would take her places: Thailand, Mexico, Hawaii, Germany, Great Britain, Denmark and the Netherlands, and most recently on a three-week vacation to Scandinavian countries.

"I'm going for the sightseeing," she said. "My attitude now is, 'You love it, go ahead.'"

They usually camp near beaches, making sure they stop at Hard Rock Cafe.

They have about 300 guitar pins and other items from the restaurants.

"We do collect a lot of stuff," the sailor said. "That's what happens when you don't have kids, you've got all the time in the world to travel."

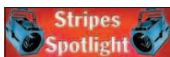
Joyce Herrera said that while she goes with the flow, it is a pain to clean the hundreds scattered around the house. The fishy bubbles initially smell like dirty socks and are cleaned monthly.

"And I think we're gonna be overweight in our household goods," she said. John Herrera has made more than \$10,000 selling the floats, which range in value from \$2 to \$5,000.

Herrera's most valuable one, a rare Japanese cobalt blue float, sold for \$3,500.

The value depends on size and markings that indicate who made them and where. Most are shades of green because the glass was primarily recycled sake bottles.

Purple, violet and red floats — rare because gold sometimes was used to produce the color — trapped octopus, crab, squid and lobster. Clear floats usually were attached to fish nets. The large green ones were used for long-line tuna fishing nets.



Chief Petty Officer John Herrera

Herrera searches for glass fishing floats to add to his collection of more than 1,500.

Job: Aviation administrationman for Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center in Signonella, Sicily

Age: 43

Family: Wife, Joyce

Hometown: Mangilao, Guam

Hobbies: Collects World War II Japanese sake cups and Hark Rock Cafe items

Stars and Stripes

The smallest are 2 inches in diameter, while the largest are 20 inches.

Designs vary, from round to rolling pin and torpedo shapes. Some float to shore with fishing nets and barnacles still attached.

While Herrera hasn't managed to get anyone hooked on his passion in Sicily, he has advice for wannabe collectors. First, research where floats have washed up, such as Spain, Portugal and northwest France.

"If there's a tropical storm or hurricane or big waves coming in, right after that is when you want to go," he said.

Go to the beach before sunrise. "You want to be the first footsteps on the beach," he said.

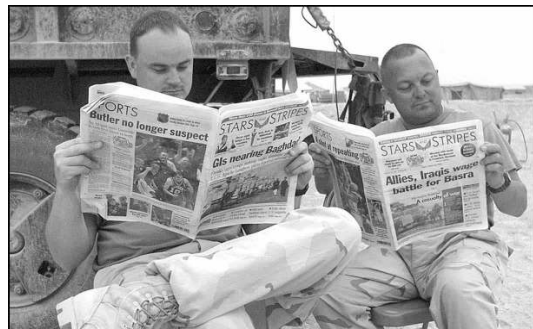
Don't just look near the water; he has found some hundreds of feet from shore.

And it isn't a hobby without hazards. Herrera has been chased by dogs and had run-ins with snakes as well as changing tides.

Joyce Herrera recalled a camping trip in Hokkaido, Japan, when her husband drove on the shore. Their car started sinking. She frantically ran to get help. She laughed that her husband was more concerned about unloading the floats.

But John Herrera said his biggest caution is this: "Be warned: It's very addictive."

E-mail Kendra Helmer at: helmerk@mail.strips.esd.mil



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Herrera and his wife, Joyce, show the largest and smallest of John's glass fishing floats. Herrera has about 1,500 floats at his home and in storage.



IN THE WORLD

Israelis form chain, protest Gaza plan

BY RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — From Gaza to Jerusalem, tens of thousands of Israelis linked hands Sunday in a human chain in a protest against Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to dismantle the Jewish settlements and withdraw the army from the Gaza Strip.

Organizers expected up to 150,000 Israelis to participate in the chain, a figure that would match a pro-withdrawal demonstration in Tel Aviv two months ago.

In Jerusalem's Old City, religious Jews prayed at Judaism's holiest shrine, then joined a chain that extended from the Western Wall, through an Israeli security barrier and up the stairs into the narrow lanes of the Jewish Quarter. Before clapping hands, demonstrators danced, clapped and sang of patriotic songs.

Scores of buses were parked along the route, as demonstrators took their places along the side of the road and waited for the signal from organizers, using bullhorns, to join hands.

Most were the outward signs of Orthodox Jews. Many waved Israeli flags and banners condemning the disengagement plan.

Police mobilized thousands of officers, reinforced by more than 1,000 private security guards, to patrol the route, deal with snarled traffic and prevent any attempt to create a disturbance.

Motorists were advised to take alternate routes.

Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements by the end of September 2005, which he announced last December, drew such fierce opposition from hardliners that he fired two critics in his own Cabinet, forcing him into negotiations for a new governing coalition.

Many Israelis see the settlements as entrenching Israel's claim on what they call the birthright of the Jewish people to the lands of



Israeli girls form part of a human chain north of the Gaza Strip. Tens of thousands of Israelis linked hands Sunday protesting Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to dismantle Jewish settlements and withdraw the army from the Gaza Strip.

the bible. About 240,000 Jews live among 3.5 million Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Other Israelis believe relinquishing the settlements is a precondition for reaching peace with the Palestinians. Polls show a majority in favor of Sharon's plan to abandon the Gaza Strip, which has less historical significance than the West Bank.

"We have a flood of people asking to take part in the chain."

The numbers are much, much more than we expected," Halfon told The Associated Press. "Spreading out this force in such a short time really requires massive control."

The first person on the chain in Nissalit is Shamir Yitzhak, who was evacuated from the Gaza Strip when Egypt captured the area in the first Arab-Israeli war in 1948.

Yitzhak's granddaughter, 6-year-old Yael Better, who lives in the Gaza settlement of Neve Dekalim, was ending the chain at Jerusalem's Western Wall.

"I don't know if it will have any influence. But we at least want to show the government that this can't be given up easily," said Mordechai Better, Yael's father. "It's not something that can be removed in a minute. There are three generations here."

Report: Morocco has lost track of 400 militants

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Moroccan authorities warned Spain that they lost track of 400 suspected militants who trained in al-Qaida terrorist camps in Afghanistan, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Morocco alerted Spanish anti-terrorism judge Baltasar Garçon of the situation at a meeting in Rabat, Morocco, in early July. Most suspects in the Madrid train bombings were Moroccan.

About 600 Moroccans were known to have trained in Afghanistan in camps sponsored by Osama bin Laden, the daily El Pais said, quoting unidentified sources close to police and judicial officials. But Morocco knew the whereabouts of only 200 of them, El Pais said.

Spanish Interior Minister Jose Antonio Alonso declined to confirm the report but said Spanish authorities were in constant contact with their Moroccan counterparts.

Earlier this month, Garçon told a Spanish parliamentary commission investigating the Madrid bombings that Morocco was teeming with al-Qaida-linked cells capable of staging suicide attacks in Europe. More than 50 people, mostly Moroccans, have been arrested and 16 remain in jail in connection with the train bombings that killed 191 people and injured 2,000 others.

Garçon told the commission many cells in Morocco contain members who speak perfect Spanish, who can slip easily in and out of Spain — just a short ferry ride across the Strait of Gibraltar.

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Reporter Nancy Montgomery tells your story from your perspective.

Cops scour Rome for murder suspect

BY FRANCES D'EMILIO

The Associated Press

ROME — Helicopters buzzed over Rome Sunday as much of central Italy remained in the grips of a manhunt for the suspected killer of a police officer, a day after the suspect — described as desperate — terrorized the heart of the Italian capital.

Police found the stolen motorcycle used by the suspect — Luciano Liboni — when he shot the officer to death Thursday during a document check at a roadblock near the Adriatic resort of Pesaro, the Italian news agency ANSA said. The motorcycle was found Sunday near Rome's central train station, ANSA said.

Officers were patrolling the capital with the suspect's photograph on the dashboard of their cars. Police also were on the lookout for him elsewhere in central Italy in case he had escaped from Rome.

"He could be anywhere, and all tips are being checked out," Giuseppe Rubino, a deputy Rome police chief, told private SKY TG 24 television.

Liboni has been dubbed "The Wolf" for his ability to strike and flee. Before Thursday's slaying, he was wanted for other shootings and has a record for robberies. He has been on the run for about two years.

"He's dangerous, desperate, full of anger," the Milan daily newspaper Corriere della Sera quoted Rome Prefect Achille Serra as saying. Serra, in charge of security in the capital, added that Liboni has a fatal illness but didn't specify it.

The suspect fired at two policemen who approached him Saturday morning near outdoor kiosks about a block away from Rome's Stazione Termini, the capital's principal railway



Italian police officers in their patrol car show reproductions of a fugitive identified as Luciano "The Wolf" Liboni at a road block by Rome's Colosseum on Saturday. Liboni is the suspected killer of Carabinieri police officer Alessandro Giorgini, shot to death at a road check Thursday in the Marche region in central Italy.

station. The man then stopped a passing car, forcing the driver to take him a short way until he jumped out of the car and dashed down the stairs of a subway entrance.

The motorist and his two children in the car were unhurt, as were the two police officers.

A fleet of helicopters was deployed in the

skies over central Rome, and patrol cars were parked outside subway exits, some near major tourist sites such as St. John Lateran Basilica.

Investigators said the suspect broke a hand in a fall from the motorcycle a day before the slaying of the Carabinieri police officer, and people at the bus terminal reported seeing a man with a bandaged hand.

Quest to be like West keeps Turkey mired in head scarf dispute

BY LYNN MEIXLER

The Associated Press

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Sema Kopuz considers her Islamic head scarf a symbol of freedom, but others call it a symbol of oppression. The colorful cloth that covers her hair has made it easier for her to study medicine, but impossible to practice it.

All over Europe, the head scarf has come to define the clash between conservative Islam and secular societies, nowhere more vividly than in overwhelmingly Muslim but vehemently secular Turkey.

Here, the head scarf is just a sensitive issue that Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan attends some government functions alone; his wife wears a head scarf and her presence could offend secularists.

Erdogan's Islamic-rooted government finds itself in an ironic situation.

Some of its core supporters strongly support Turkey's drive for European Union membership in the hopes

that Europe's liberal, pluralist ways will force the Turkish government to relax the ban on head scarves.

Yet head scarves are just the sort of thing that reinforces Europeans like German opposition leader Edmund Stoiber, who says "Turkey comes from a very different religious and cultural tradition" and "would disrupt Europe's community bond."

Recent events have been discouraging for the pro-scarf camp.

In February, French legislators

voted overwhelmingly to ban the scarves in public schools, and last month, the European Court of Human Rights ruled against a Turkish student who claimed her rights were violated by Turkish restrictions on wearing scarves at universities.

Turkey's sensitivity to head-gear dates to the 1920s, when Mustafa Kemal Ataturk set out to Westernize the country overnight.

He Latinized the Arabic alphabet, mandated Western dress, forced men to abandon their fez hats and spoke out against women's veils.

The military considers itself the guarantor of the staunchly secular constitution, and as recently as seven years ago it helped drive an elected Islamic-oriented government from power.

Kopuz said she had hoped that as Turkey drew closer to Europe, the ban would be relaxed.

"Now, after the decision in

France, that hope has also vanished," she said.

For Kopuz, 29, the decision to wear a head scarf was deeply personal. When she came to college in Istanbul, she met other women from conservative backgrounds who wore head scarves, and she began to like them.

The head scarf isn't just for appearances. Kopuz is an observant Muslim who prays regularly. And she has paid for her choice.

Turkey has long had restrictions on women wearing head scarves in universities and government offices.

Kopuz and other women said these were tightened in 1998 — and they were forced to leave their universities.

Kopuz finished her studies in Azerbaijan but cannot practice medicine in Turkey because women in head scarves are barred from taking the medical board examination.

EU ups pressure on Sudan to end fighting

BY PAUL GEITNER

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — European Union foreign ministers were looking to increase pressure on Sudan to end its conflict in Darfur, and would consider Monday whether to join the United States in threatening international sanctions. Citing "grave concern" at reports of "massive human rights violations" that some have called genocide, EU ministers gathered for a meeting in Brussels were hoping to push Sudan's government and rebel groups to resume peace talks as well as improve access for relief groups.

"It's almost certain the international community will take further measures if this situation does not improve," Dutch Foreign Minister Ben Bot, who will chair the meeting, said late Saturday after meeting his Sudanese counterpart, Mustafa Osman Ismail.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer also backed the threat of U.N. sanctions unless Sudan disarms Arab militias responsible for killings in Darfur — a threat first made last week by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.

"The Sudanese government has the duty to guarantee people's security and the responsibility of bringing the militias before the courts and taking their weapons to end the violence," Fischer told ZDF television Sunday after talking by phone with Powell.

The violence began 15 months ago when two rebel groups from Darfur's African tribes took up arms in a struggle over land and resources with Arab communities. Arab militias known as Janjaweed then began a brutal campaign to drive out the black Africans.

Up to 30,000 people, most of them black Africans, have been killed and more than 1.1 million people have fled their homes. Some 2.2 million are in urgent need of food or medical attention.

Germany lobbying for permanent seat on U.N. Security Council

The Associated Press

BERLIN — German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer on Sunday defended his country's bid for a permanent seat on the United Nations' Security Council, saying that a new European seat is "priority number one."

Fischer is fresh from a trip to Asia last week, during which he lobbied for the Security Council to be expanded. During his visit to India, both countries vowed to back each other's bids for seats.

Expanding the council has been on the U.N. agenda for more than a decade, and the five permanent members — the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia — are open to discussing it. But expansion faces major obstacles, including how large the council should be, which countries should be permanent and who should have veto power.

"The realities of the 21st-century world must be mirrored in the Security Council," Fischer told ZDF television in an interview to air Sunday.

Countries such as Japan, Germany, India

and Brazil have been trying to get a reorganized council that would represent more regions and developing countries. Fischer said Sunday he had doubts that Great Britain or France would give up a seat to make room for Germany.

Fischer also told ZDF that he sees no need for a referendum in Germany on the European Union's planned constitution, which is aimed at streamlining decision-making in the European Union. His comments came in response to planned referendums in nine countries, including Great Britain, Denmark and France.

Turkish landing scare

ISTANBUL, Turkey — A passenger plane from Düsseldorf, Germany, skidded off the runway early Sunday after landing in Istanbul, officials said. No one was injured.

The Inter Airlines flight, carrying 102 passengers and six crew members, landed at Ataturk airport shortly after midnight, causing the plane to turn to the left and skid off the runway, he said.

From The Associated Press



Bangladeshi boys wade through floodwaters with their belongings Friday in Dhaka's suburb of Basila, Bangladesh. Floods killed another 25 people in Bangladesh.

S. Asia's monsoon death toll hits 879

BY AJAI SINGH
The Associated Press

PATNA, India — Receding flood waters revealed 139 more bodies and at least 10 people drowned Sunday when a boat capsized in eastern India. In neighboring Bangladesh, workers frantically stacked sandbags to protect the capital from rising waters and 25 more deaths were reported.

The new deaths pushed the toll from this year's South Asian monsoons to 879, with 102 deaths reported earlier in Nepal and five in Pakistan.

In India, rescue workers found the new bodies in the last two days as waters receded in hard-hit Bihar state, flood relief official Upendra Sharma said. Floods triggered by the annual monsoon rains have wreaked havoc in the state for the past month, killing 351 people and affecting more than 20 million others there, Sharma told reporters in the state capital, Patna.

The death toll for all of India rose to 545, officials said.

While water levels in major rivers crisscrossing the state began falling, rivers around Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, burst their banks, leaving 40 percent of the city of 10 million people under water. Parts of the central business district and two upscale residential areas were submerged.

Workers and volunteers stacked sandbags in a bid to stop water gushing through cracks in

two main flood protection embankments outside the capital.

Nearly two-thirds of Bangladesh—a delta nation of 140 million people—has been flooded since the start of the monsoon in late June. The floods—the worst there since 1998—have affected about 20 million people in 45 out of the country's 64 districts, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Center said.

Officials said the situation was likely to worsen, as the 25 more deaths reported Sunday brought the country's death toll to 227.

Higher than normal tides caused by a full moon and rising rivers fed by monsoon rains were likely to worsen the flooding in 23 central and northeastern districts over the next three days, the flood forecasting center said.

Government relief workers and volunteers were distributing food, medicines and clothes among people stranded in their homes or sheltering on mud embankments, raised highways, school buildings or mosques.

In India's Bihar state, army soldiers were dropping food packages and drinking water in the worst-hit districts, some of which remained cut off from the rest of the country with roads and rail tracks submerged, officials said.

The toll in Bihar was expected to rise over the next few days as more reports of deaths come in from remote areas, Sharma said.

Last year, 1,500 people died across South Asia during the mid-June to mid-October monsoon.

Mexican judge refuses order to arrest ex-leader for genocide

BY JOHN RICE
The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — A judge has refused to issue an arrest warrant against former President Luis Echeverria, who faces genocide charges for the killing of protesters in a clash with pro-government thugs during a 1971 demonstration.

Judge Jose Cesar Flores did not explain why he denied to issue arrest warrants Saturday against Echeverria and other former top officials allegedly responsible for the deaths.

But defense lawyers had argued there was insufficient evidence to link Echeverria to the killings and that the statute of limitations had run out.

Echeverria, first as interior secretary in the 1960s and as president from 1970-76, allegedly fought a decade-long counterinsurgency campaign against the student pro-democracy movement, as well as small and violent

leftist guerrilla groups.

Special prosecutor Ignacio Carrillo, following a two-year investigation, claimed that dozens of students died in the "Corpus Christi massacre."

On June 10, 1972, but defense lawyer Juan Velazquez claimed only 11 were killed. Velazquez also said charges of genocide are not applicable because

of a 30-year statute of limitations—a claim that Carrillo rejected.

Prosecutors said they would appeal Flores' decision to the Supreme Court.

The case against Echeverria, the first former leader to face criminal charges in the country's modern history, has threatened to

create a crisis in President Vicente Fox's already troubled relationship with Congress. Echeverria's Institutional Revolutionary Party holds the largest bloc of seats and could stop cooperating with Fox if the charges go through.

Many critics question Carrillo's decision to press genocide charges against Echeverria, 82. Most agree that Carrillo filed the genocide charges mainly because it was the only charge—apart from "forced disappearance"—on which the statute of limitations had not already run out, though defense lawyers argued that time limits apply even to genocide.

Few estimates place the death toll in Mexico's "dirty war" at more than 500, some estimates are lower, and details on many cases are sketchy.

Echeverria also has been implicated in a 1968 demonstration known as the massacre of Tlatelco, during which a larger number of protesters died.



Echeverria

Iran court acquits only defendant in murder of Canadian journalist

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI
The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — A court has acquitted an agent charged with the killing of an Iranian-Canadian photojournalist in a case that has damaged relations between Ottawa and Tehran, the lawyer and Nobel Peace laureate representing the victim's mother said.

The Tehran court on Saturday cleared Mohammad Reza Aghdam Ahmadi, the sole defendant in the case, of killing Zahra Kazemi, who died of a fractured skull and brain hemorrhage in detention last July, Shirin Ebadi told The Associated Press.

Ebadi said the legal proceedings were flawed and threatened to take the matter to international organizations.

Kazemi, a Canadian freelance journalist of Iranian origin, died July 10, 2003, while in detention for taking photographs outside a Tehran prison during student-led protests against the ruling theocracy.

Iranian authorities initially said Kazemi died of a stroke but a presidential committee later found she died of a fractured skull and brain hemorrhage.

Ahmadi pleaded innocent on July 17 and the trial was abruptly ended the next day.

Hard-liners were angered when the defense team led by Ebadi accused prison official Mohammad Bakshi of inflicting the fatal blow to Kazemi and the conservative judiciary of illegally detaining her.

Ebadi, who leads a four-member legal team, accused the court of deliberately failing to carry out justice.

Ebadi refused to sign the bill of indictment—which implicated Ahmadi and cleared Bakshi of any wrongdoing—and demanded that the court summon several top officials, including hard-line Tehran Prosecutor Saeed Mortazavi, to explain Kazemi's death.

Folding guitar makes for easier traveling

BY TOMMY GRANDELL
The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Swedish airline pilot Fredrik Johansson has two passions in life: flying and making music with his guitar.

But in the cramped confines of a commercial airline, there's scant space for a full-sized six-string, so he devised his own model which makes for easier traveling.

The 41-year-old Scandinavian Airlines pilot designed a guitar that folds up into half the size of a normal instrument, leaving plenty of space in the cockpit.

The concept is simple, he said. The guitar's neck is attached to a solid electric guitar body similar in size and style to a Fender Telecaster. With the push of a lever, the neck folds back onto the body and the strings are pulled back on a roller, much like a window shade that rolls up exposing a window. When folded, the mahogany guitar is just 20 inches long.

Johansson has applied for Swedish and international patents on the instrument. The sound is sharp and when he plays his preferred blues



Fredrik Johansson shows off his guitar that folds up into half the size of a normal instrument.

songs, the guitar has a rich timber to it, even more so when he strums a Willie Nelson tune.

Even though there are only three models, Johansson said he is considering taking it abroad to music trade fairs in the United States to see if there is interest in making a commercial model.

IN THE STATES

House to discuss error in rare August hearings

BY HOPE YEN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate and House committees will hold an unusual round of August hearings on intelligence reform after leaders of the Sept. 11 commission warned that America remained vulnerable to another deadly terror strike.

"The American people expect us to act," Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, chairwoman of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, said Friday. "We don't have the luxury of waiting for months."

Collins and the committee's top Democrat, Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, said they would invite the commission's leaders, Republican chairman Thomas Keen and Democratic vice chairman Lee Hamilton, to testify.

The hearings will focus on two of the commission's key recommendations: creating a national counterterrorism center and a new director of intelligence to be confirmed by the Senate, with Cabinet-level authority over budgets and intelligence policies.

Congress began its recess Friday and was to be out of session until after Labor Day.

"This is a crisis. People died, and more people will unless we get it together," Lieberman said. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., also urged the committee to introduce legislation by Oct. 1 addressing the intelligence proposals. The committee said it would do so.

Late Friday, House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., who has expressed doubt that lawmakers would have time to consider a sweeping intelligence overhaul this year, said he and Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, would also direct House committees to hold hearings next month and make recommendations for legislation by September.

Earlier in the day, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi of California urged Hastert in a letter to reconvene the House in August. Hastert responded that he would seek hearings "over the next several months." He later announced the August hearings.

"The House plans to immediately assess everything we have done... since 9/11 and everything we need to do," Hastert said.

Keen, a former New Jersey governor, and Hamilton, a former congressman from Indiana, told reporters Friday that swift action was critical.

Man claims abuse while in Egypt

LOS ANGELES — A California man who was detained in Egypt for nearly a week says he was beaten and questioned before authorities released him without explanation.

Abdul Ghafoor Mahboob, a naturalized U.S. citizen who lives in the Los Angeles suburb of Culver City, told the Los Angeles Times he was repeatedly beaten with a stick on his thighs and punched in the stomach and head.

Mahboob, 26, said he was at the Cairo airport July

16, on his way home after spending the last seven months studying Arabic, when guards stopped him for what they said was a routine security check.

Mahboob said the officials handcuffed and blindfolded him and drove him to a prison.

Mahboob said he was asked questions about his family, education, work and mosque affiliation in the United States, but not about his political views.

He was released Thursday, Mahboob said that when he asked Egyptian officials why they had detained him, he was told, "We don't know."

From The Associated Press

Charges unlikely in Senate terror leak

Ethics panel to weigh evidence against Alabama's Shelby

BY CURT ANDERSON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department has referred to the Senate Ethics Committee an investigation into whether a Republican senator or his staff leaked classified information, indicating that criminal charges are highly unlikely, a federal law enforcement official said.

The referral Thursday means that it is now up to the ethics panel to decide if any action is warranted against Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, who was vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee at the time of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

Both the House and Senate intelligence committees were also briefed by prosecutors and the FBI about the findings of the investigation, the law enforcement official said Saturday, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the probe remains officially open.

The investigation concerned the 2002 disclosure to news reporters of two messages intercepted by the National Security Agency a day before the Sept. 11 terror attacks. Those messages contained the words "within 48 hours begins tomorrow" and "tomorrow is zero day" but they were not translated from Arabic until Sept. 12.

The intercepts had been disclosed by the NSA director, Lt. Gen. Michael Hayden, during a private meeting of a joint House-Senate intelligence committee that investigated the Sept. 11 attacks.

Shelby was on the panel at the time.

Shelby has adamantly denied any wrongdoing and said he and his staff cooperated in the investigation. His spokeswoman, Virginia Davis, refused comment Saturday night and referred reporters



The Justice Department has referred an investigation into whether Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., or his staff leaked classified information to the Senate Ethics Committee.

to the senator's statement issued in January.

"My position on this issue is clear and well-known: At no time during my career as a United States Senator and, more particularly, at no time during my service as Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence have I ever knowingly compromised classified information," Shelby said in that statement.

It is a felony to intentionally leak classified information, but leak investigations rarely produce criminal charges because there are few witnesses and little or no paper trail to follow.

Prosecutors also must prove that the person leaked the information with full knowledge it was a government secret.

The specificity of the wording in the 2002 leaks was particularly troubling to intelligence officials because it could tip off terrorists that a particular channel they were using had been compromised and thus dry up a valuable source of information by prompting them to use alternative means of communication.

Nephew's death in Iraq personalizes death-benefits debate for Ill. senator

The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — A state senator learned his nephew had been killed in Iraq as the Illinois Senate debated death benefits for military personnel during a special budget session.

Republican Sen. Dave Sullivan was listening to the discussion on the Senate floor Saturday when he was told his 22-year-old nephew, Marine Lance Corp. Vincent Sullivan, was killed Friday while serving his second tour of duty in Iraq, according to Senate Republican Leader Frank Watson.

"Suddenly and tragically, the

legislation we were discussing about military benefits became starkly personal for one of our colleagues," said Watson, a Republican.

The Senate approved the legislation, which extends the state's traditional military death benefits to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, then observed a moment of silence for Sullivan in his family. The senator stayed through Saturday's session, helping the Senate approve a long-delayed state budget for the fiscal year that began July 1.

Vincent Sullivan was the son of the senator's brother, Michael Sullivan.

Messages of Support



Dear Sir or Madam, Hi, My name is Melissa and I am 16 years old. It is very nice to write you this letter considering I wanted to be in the armed forces myself. I still want to consider risking my life for people and caring for them! My dream is to become a police officer in the Edmonton Police Services! You all are my role models and I look up to you for guidance. I hope you all are kicking butt and winning this war and giving the Iraqi people there freedom back as it is meant to be. For God made us free and that is what he meant for the world. I know I am from Canada but that doesn't mean I am not there for you. You are always in my heart and I hope you all come back safe and sound. My family prays for you all everyday to be safe and come home safely, love, Melissa J. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada



To Polly, Hey baby! I just wanted to tell you how much I miss you and how proud I am for you going over to wherever you are and being so brave and strong. You are a great man and I'm thankful everyday to have you in my life. Come home soon. Love, Terri

To all our men and women fighting for the cause,

We have nothing but respect for ya. May God watch over you good folks. Thank you for your patriotism. You guys are the best. Hurry home and God speed. Thank you again.



Hello, My name is Steve; I am a member of a Rock Band (Requiem) from Las Vegas. On the anniversary of 9/11, I was watching the specials on TV, I, as almost every American got very emotional. I, with the help of the band wrote a song called "Too Far". The members of Requiem would like to dedicate this song to all those serving our country and also to their families.

If you have time, please listen to it and hopefully you can help us get it in the right hands so the troops will know that our thoughts and prayers are with them.

It seems that some Americans have forgotten about the "Terror" of Sept 11th. We hope this song will help them remember what our country stands for and why we are at war with terrorists and terrorist nations. We must never forget. Thank You for your time, Steve & Bryan Ward



A. Wright: You are the best Daddy in the whole world. We love you all the way to the moon and back. We miss you very much. When you come home we will have huge hugs for you. Love from Jim and Catherine.

Kerry looks to sell his message in Boston

Convention to put senator's biography on display, focus on positive

BY DAN BALZ
The Washington Post

BOSTON — United Democrats began assembling here Saturday for a national convention designed to introduce Sen. John Kerry to the country, persuade voters that he can lead a war against terrorism and show that he offers an appealing alternative to President Bush and the Republicans.

With an eye on undecided and swing voters, Kerry and the Democrats begin their convention week exuding confidence, buoyed by surveys showing that the public has more faith on many issues in the Democratic Party than in the Republican Party and that voters remain critical of Bush's handling of the two dominant issues in the campaign, Iraq and the economy.

But the Democrats' self-assurance exists despite the reality that Kerry has struggled to turn broad dissatisfaction with Bush's presidency into stronger support for his own candidacy. Most pre-convention polls continued to show the presidential race still within the margin of error and Democrats see the convention as a critical opportunity for Kerry to change the shape of the contest.

"He's not closed the sale," independent pollster Tim Hibbitts said of Kerry in an interview. "Basically his strongest strength is he's not George Bush."

Officials here were rushing to complete preparations for what may be the most unified Democratic convention in recent memory, as thousands of delegates, activists and journalists began arriving to find a city heavily secured against threats of terrorism.

After 18 months in which Democratic candidates and party leaders have pounded the president, Democratic officials promised to put on a positive show this week, at least from the podium inside Boston's FleetCenter. "This is going to be a positive convention," New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, the convention chairman, told reporters Saturday at a breakfast hosted by the Christian Sci-



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts greets supporters following a speech Saturday in Sioux City, Iowa. Thousands have gathered in Boston for the Democratic National Convention, where the party will attempt to sell Kerry to the nation as a politician who is in touch with the center of the political spectrum and a viable replacement for incumbent President Bush.

ence Monitor. "This is not going to be a bush-Bush convention."

Over four nights beginning on Monday, Democrats from former President Bill Clinton to Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy to Kerry's vice presidential running mate, Sen. John Edwards, will highlight Kerry's biography as a combat veteran with two decades of Senate experience while seeking to rebut Republican criticisms that he's too liberal and lacks convictions on critical issues.

"We've got to make the affirmative case, not the negative case," said Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, who's on the convention program.

"There is no doubt that the Democratic base is motivated."

Republicans will be here in force all week to challenge what they dub the "extreme make-over" of Kerry at the convention

and party officials hope to see their convention to broaden the candidate's appeal to undecided and swing voters who may hold the key to victory if the race continues to stay close.

The Democratic gathering here brings to an end an intensive pre-convention campaign period that has seen both sides raise and spend record amounts of money, much of it on television ad-

vertising in about 18 battleground states. But for all the activity, the margin between Kerry and Bush has moved little.

Nor did Kerry's selection of Edwards as his vice presidential running mate significantly shift the race in the Democrats' direction.

The two sides are now engaged in a game of expectations over how much of a post-convention bounce in the polls Kerry should expect.

Tim Hibbitts
Independent pollster

Bush-Cheney campaign manager Ken Mehlman.

The Democrats' determination to project a positive tone at the convention reflects their view of how the race may be won in November.

With rank-and-file Democrats thoroughly energized around the goal of denying Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney another term in office, Kerry campaign

and party officials hope to see their convention to broaden the candidate's appeal to undecided and swing voters who may hold the key to victory if the race continues to stay close.

Bush-Cheney chief strategist

Matthew Dowd argues that, based on past history, Kerry should see a 15-point swing, while Kerry officials say that with so few genuinely undecided voters, the bounce will be far more modest.

Those arguments aside, the Democrats say they start their convention ahead of where some past challengers have been. "When you look at past conventions, people are trying to do what Kerry has already done, consolidate their party and try to bring unity to it," said Kerry campaign manager Mary Beth Cahill. "We've accomplished that already."

A new poll by the Pew Research Center found the Democrats' image is significantly better than it was on the eve of the 2002 midterm congressional and gubernatorial elections, when the Republicans made historic gains. On both the economy and terrorism, the Democrats have gained ground and are now seen by the public as better equipped to deal with the economy and roughly even with Bush and the Republicans on terrorism, where Bush once held a big advantage.

The Democrats plan to make Kerry the singular focus of their convention this week in the hope that he can fill out a profile that remains only partially completed in the minds of many voters.

The Bush campaign's Mehlman said Kerry so far has failed to do what Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, the two successful Democratic candidates of the past two decades, had done by the time of their conventions.

"The people who have succeeded have defined themselves as being different kind of Democrats," he said. "It's hard to argue that John Kerry has done that" since wrapping up his nomination.

Kerry hopes to use his convention to do that, but in an environment that has seen a challenger have confronted, one in which terrorism has reshaped the presidency and to some extent the voters' checklist of what they want in a commander in chief.



President Bush speaks Thursday at the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy. Bush has an early edge in projected Electoral College votes, according to The Associated Press.

Electoral College math favorable for Bush

BY RON FOURNIER
The Associated Press

BOSTON — John Kerry narrowly trails President Bush in the battle for the 270 electoral votes needed to win the White House, as he makes his case at the Democratic National Convention this week to topple the Republican incumbent.

Tall hurdles remain in his path, including Electoral College math that favors Bush.

"It's a tough, tough map. I think it's going to be a close race," said Democratic strategist Tad Devine, who helped plot Al Gore's state-by-state strategy in 2000 and plays the same role for Kerry.

"But looking back four years, we're much stronger now. I think we're going into this convention in great shape," he said.

With three months remaining in a volatile campaign, Kerry has 14 states and Washington, D.C., in his column for 193 electoral votes.

Bush has 25 states for 217 votes, according to an

Associated Press analysis of state polls as well as interviews with strategists across the country.

Both candidates are short of the magic 270 electoral votes. The margin of victory will come from:

■ **Tossups:** Bush and Kerry are running even in 11 states with a combined 128 electoral votes. Florida, Ohio, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Michigan and West Virginia are the toughest battlegrounds. Two other tossups, Pennsylvania and Oregon, could soon move to Kerry's column.

■ **Lean Kerry:** Maine, Minnesota and Washington (a combined 25 electoral votes) favor Kerry over Bush by a few percentage points.

■ **Lean Bush:** North Carolina, Colorado, Louisiana, Arizona, Virginia, Arkansas and Missouri (a combined 73 electoral votes) give Bush modest leads. He won all seven in 2000.

All total, 21 states are in play. Some will bounce between "lean" and "tossup" throughout the campaign.

Picketing avoided

BOSTON — Boston firefighters reached a contract agreement Sunday with the city after a marathon session of negotiations, averting union picketing at delegation welcoming parties for the Democratic National Convention.

The firefighters were the last big city union left without a contract, and in the days leading up to this week's convention, they had been engineering concerns of union strife interfering with the four-day event.

The convention began Monday, but delegates began descending on Boston on Saturday, and scores of welcoming parties were planned throughout the city.

From The Associated Press

Comic-Con offers up a geeky good time

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A real superhero convention would perhaps showcase the latest in bulletproof capes or underground-lair interiors or decorating. But the annual Comic-Con event doesn't special-ize in reality.

Giant killer robots, Spider-Man's guide to New York City and Keanu Reeves as a man who literally has been to hell and back were some of the big attractions Friday at the 35th annual gathering.

Reeves, whose black-cloaked "Matrix" character is a favorite costume choice of some attendees, was there to promote his latest role in a comic book adaptation titled "Constantine."

He said this was his second time at the event, and offered up a "whoa" of sorts in praise of its geeky chic.

"I think anytime where there's enthusiasm and a place to come together to share what you think is cool and have the kind of opportunity to come together... it's awesome," he said.

The event originated with comic books, but now includes movies, TV shows, toys, music and every other conceivable medium. Geeky? Unmistakably yes.

But there's no better place to get a sneak peek at the latest from the worlds of sci-fi, fantasy and superheroics.

Hollywood studios began invading the convention in recent years, seeing it as a chance not only to promote upcoming movies but also to test the reaction of flick-

le fans.

"Comic-Con has become THE place to initially mount a campaign, whether it's a comic book announcement, a video game or a genre film," said David Goyer, the screenwriter of the upcoming "Batman Begins," and writer-director of "Blade: Trinity," the third in the vampire-hunter saga.

Goyer touted "Batman Begins" along with actor Cillian Murphy, who plays the villain Scarecrow, at a panel discussion attended by more than 6,000 people Friday afternoon.

"I think had we not had a presence here it would have been a glaring omission," Goyer told to a reporter. "First and foremost, everyone would have said, 'Are they trying to hide something?'"

As it turns out, they were — one of the first questions a fan asked Murphy was: What does Scarecrow look like? The filmmakers had banned him from answering that one.

From the world of paper comic books, the industry leaders Marvel and DC were both present to show off their latest takes of Superman, Daredevil, Batman, and of course Spider-Man.

Some of the presentations ranged from the insightful — like the analytical "Superman on the couch" session that explored the psyche of the Man of Steel — to the somewhat silly, like the "Marvel Super Heroes' Guide to New York City," in which legendary comics scribe Stan Lee and assorted other Marvel editors talked about how the Big Apple influenced their storytelling over the years.

Many of the attendees (there were 75,000 last year) say the big



Dressed as Star Wars characters, Yvette Perono and her brother Steven Perono talk at the ride the escalator at the San Diego Convention Center during the annual Comic-Con convention Saturday.

draw of Comic-Con is not the celebrities but the costumes.

Lara Carver, 34, a school nurse from Las Vegas, showed up dressed as Wonder Woman in a red cape and red-white-and-blue

buster outfit.

"I was really nervous yesterday and I kept having panic attacks, but it's not so bad now, because everyone is like 'Ooh, Wonder Woman!'" she said.

Aldo Cos, 43, a schoolteacher from Los Angeles, was a lone "Star Trek" officer among a group of Klingon friends dressed in body armor and rubber, ripped foreheads.

"He's our token Federation human," said Joan Jones, 39, one of the Klingons.

'Star Wars' fanatics get special treat

SAN DIEGO — The final "Star Wars" prequel is just "Episode III" now. Lucasfilm has announced its full title: "Revenge of the Sith."

The movie, set for release in May 2005, will link the prequels with the original "Star Wars" trilogy by showing how Luke Skywalker's father, Anakin, went from a sweet-natured slave boy to the galaxy-crushing villain Darth Vader.

The Sith is the evil sect that corrupts Anakin (played by Hayden Christensen) by drawing him into the dark side of the Force, the cosmic power that governs the universe.

Lucasfilm announced the title Saturday at Comic-Con.

It was a risky move — some of the notoriously fickle "Star Wars" admirers initially bristled at previous prequel titles "The Phantom Menace" and "Attack of the Clones."

"Star Wars" creator and filmmaker George Lucas did not attend the event, but sent fan relations chief Steve Sansweet in his place.

There was one other announcement for fans: "Revenge of the Sith" T-shirts would go on sale inside Comic-Con's main hall in five minutes.

— The Associated Press

Another of their friends, Jackie Vorhies, was dressed only as herself in a T-shirt and shorts. But she, too, had a role to play.

"I'm the human captive of the lumphheads," she said, using a presumably racist Klingon slur. "I assist as ordered."

Teen not lovin' what she found in dessert

The Associated Press

SAN BENITO, Texas — A teenager says she found a partially smoked, quarter-inch long marijuana cigarette in her frozen yogurt parfait at a McDonald's in South Texas.

Valerie Valle, 16, of Round Rock and seven other family members were returning home Thursday from a weeklong vacation on South Padre Island when they stopped for breakfast, the Valley Morning Star in Harlingen reported Saturday.

Valle said she waited in line to return the parfait and replied "I don't thanks" when asked if she wanted another one. The restaurant refunded the money.

According to a San Benito police report, only two McDonald's

employees made parfaits that morning. Restaurant management told police the employees take drug tests.

Police took the used marijuana cigarette as evidence.

No charges have been filed and no arrests have been made.

"We're conducting our own internal investigation into this incident," said Joe Magliolo, operations manager for the company that owns the McDonald's franchise. "Obviously, it would be inappropriate to come to any conclusions as to what did or did not happen until all the facts are known."

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
British pound	\$1.253
Euro	\$1.88
Japanese yen (July 26)	107.00
S. Korean won (July 24)	133.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
British pound	\$1.838
Canada (Dollar)	1.321
Denmark (Krone)	6.105
Egypt (Pound)	4.15
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.2104
Hungary (Forint)	203.05
Indonesia (Rupiah)	1,686
Israel (Shekel)	4.4944
Japan (Yen)	110.09
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2947
Norway (Krone)	0.6568
Philippines (Peso)	56.00
Poland (Zloty)	3.48
Singapore (Dollar)	1.726
S. Korea (Won)	1,163.27
Switzerland (Franc)	1.347
Thailand (Baht)	46.98
Turkey (Lira)	1,497

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at major U.S. banks in the country of issuance. For non-U.S. currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), consult your local currency exchange facility. Commercial rates are those provided for by major banks when buying currency. All figures are foreign exchange rates as of 4 p.m. Eastern Time. British pound, which is represented in dollars to euro, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

London close	
Gold	\$386.40
Silver	\$6.27

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.25
Discount rate	2.25
3-month Treasury market rate	2.25
3-month bill	2.125
30-year Treasury note	4.125

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com

Cents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Saving for child's college

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — Many people opt off saving for their child's college education because they believe having less to contribute will entitle their son or daughter to more financial aid.

It's a mistake that will cost you twice — once when your child is choosing a college, and again after he or she has graduated, according to David Braverman, a vice president at Standard & Poor's and author of the new book "Saving and Investing for College."

The less of savings hits first by limiting where you can afford to send your child after he or she has been accepted. Although you may indeed qualify for more aid, "most of the initial layer is in the form of loans that you'll have to pay back," Braverman said. The less you have saved, the more your child may have to borrow.

Those loans will then hold back your child financially after graduation.

Graduates with immense loans often hold off on major life events — getting married or buying a car or a home — until they pay off their loans, Braverman added.

Whether your child is almost ready to attend college or still younger, consider a state-sponsored 529 savings plan. You (and any other relatives who want to help) can contribute up to \$55,000 a year.

The money is invested in mutual funds and grows tax-free until it is withdrawn.

However, be aware the legislation for tax-free withdrawals will expire in 2010.

Before you sign up for a 529, research your state's program thoroughly, Braverman advises. Risk factors, fees and investment options vary widely.

Several states even have multiple plans.

No matter how you choose to invest, you can take the job up yourself or (for a fee) hire a broker or a financial professional.

Girl drowns in pool

CA ELK GROVE — A baby sitter did all she could do in an attempt to free a drowning 8-year-old girl whose hair had become caught in a swimming pool's filter system, police said Friday.

The 22-year-old baby sitter was watching Haven Scarborough and her 10-year-old sister swim, Corcoran said, but when the 8-year-old's shoulder-length hair became stuck, the baby sitter was not able to pull the girl from the water. After three minutes, the girl was finally freed when someone cut her hair with a knife. CPR efforts failed.

'No tag' doesn't fly

DE WILMINGTON — A vanity license tag chosen as a gag has left its owner holding the bag.

Cara thought the "NOTAG" plate he got for his Suzuki motorcycle would give people a laugh. Instead, he found that the joke — along with more than 200 parking violations — was on him.

The new tag arrived in the mail Saturday, along with an avalanche of city parking violations.

Officials said city computers linked to state Division of Motor Vehicles computers finally found an address for ticketed vehicles that lacked license tags.

An incorrect computer code used by the contractor that processes the city's parking violations helped land the tickets in Cara's mail, according to John Rago, a spokesman for Wilmington Mayor James Baker.

Building a truck highway

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma should consider building a toll road to pick up truck traffic from a massive road project Texas is planning from Mexico to the Red River, a former state transportation official says.

The Lone Star state is taking proposals on a four-lane route from Laredo to the Oklahoma-Texas line to speed product shipment and reduce congestion and wear on standard highways.

Once it reaches the Oklahoma line north of Dallas, it could be extended along U.S. 69 through Muskogee and Tulsa or parallel to Interstate 35 through Oklahoma City. Neal McCaleb, the former Oklahoma transportation secretary, said.

McCaleb said the 700-mile corridor in Texas would cost as much as \$8 billion, with 130 miles from the Red River to Tulsa costing almost \$1 billion.

The project is part of an envisioned 4,000-mile network tying railroads, highways and utilities across Texas and neighboring states. The whole network would cost \$186 billion.

Man speeds to court

WV WINFIELD — Sheriff's Deputy John Hedrick was surprised when a vehicle he was chasing squealed into a county parking lot and its driver, Daniel Clark, got out and ran toward a judicial annex.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

The suspect, it turns out, was late for a very important date — in court.

The chase began Wednesday when Hedrick spotted a vehicle doing 60 in a 35 mph zone on U.S. 35.

Hedrick let Clark make his court date and alerted a bailiff.

When Clark left the courtroom, he was cited for speeding and driving on a suspended license.

Man found guilty of fraud

KS WICHITA — A man charged with taking his victims into putting their hands into fraudulent investments was sentenced to 13 months in prison.

Marty Banuelos, 49, milked victims out of more than \$100,000 by persuading them to invest in everything from sweatshirts for dialysis patients to salsa for Mexican restaurants. His lawyer said he had good intentions but was driven to fraud by cocaine addiction.

Python slithers on street

FL VERO BEACH — A 16-foot-long Burmese python was captured on a city street after a passing motorist spotted about three feet of it hanging over a curb and called police.

The brown-and-yellow snake was wrestled into a body bag and



Sailing away

Tall Ships sail into New London, Conn., on Thursday. The Tall Ships Environmental Festival is part of the International Children's Environmental Conference taking place at Connecticut College in New London.

taken to the home of Animal Control Officer Bruce Dangerfield.

The snake will probably be euthanized if its owner doesn't come forward, said Ike Daniel of the Humane Society.

"There is such overpopulation, no zoo wants them," she said.

Trucks idle no more

CA SACRAMENTO — California air regulators barred heavy diesel trucks and buses Thursday from idling more than five minutes without a good reason.

The new regulation applies to more than 400,000 publicly and privately owned diesel vehicles over 10,000 pounds. It will take effect in about six months if it withstands a technical review by the state's Office of Administrative Law.

Exceptions to the rule would allow buses to idle up to 10 minutes to keep heating or air conditioning running for passengers' comfort, and trucks with sleeper berths could idle during federally mandated rest periods.

California joins about 20 other states that restrict nonessential idling.

Besides helping clean up the nation's dirtiest air, ending the idling also will save diesel vehicle owners up to \$113 million annually in fuel and maintenance costs, the board estimated.

Ethanol plants get funds

NE LINCOLN — Eleven ethanol plants in Nebraska qualified for potentially more than \$200 million in state incentives. Six of the plants are shutting down to build larger facilities, or secure financing for expansion.

The plants use 25 percent of Nebraska's corn. That could double to 50 percent and production could reach 650 million gallons a year if all 11 plants become operational, the state Ethanol Board said.

Ethanol makes fuel burn cleaner.

Biologists make fishy find

VT BURLINGTON — Vermont fisheries biologists have discovered what they believe is another alien invader in Lake Champlain that could alter the lake's ecosystem.

Fisheries biologists from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department turned up what they believe is an alewife during routine sampling this month. Because it's similar to several other fish species found in Lake Champlain, the biologist haven't conclusively identified it as an alewife, but they're almost certain that's what it is.

"We haven't done a genetic analysis," said biologist Shawn Good, "but we've dissected it and compared some key features, both internally and externally. There's really nothing else it can be."

Alewives are primarily plankton eaters, and the concern is that once established in Lake Champlain, they'll compete with other fish, like smelt, for food. Smelt are an important food source for a number of larger fish, including trout, salmon, walleye and bass.



Taking a leap

Johnny Baltazar, 12, sails through the air as he jumps off the high dive at the Portales City Pool in Portales, N.M.



Bugs take over

Jacob Becker, 8, of Natick, Mass., examines an oversized wooden ladybug sculpture at the Big Bugs exhibit in the Garden in The Woods in Framingham, Mass.



Votes are in

A Hamtramck resident leaves a voting booth at the St. Ladislaus gymnasium in Hamtramck, Mich. The vote on whether to repeal a noise ordinance amendment has become a referendum on whether or not to allow the Islamic call to prayer in this once predominantly Polish community.



Surf's up, dude Mark Stewart flips off his surfboard near the Folly Beach Fishing Pier in Folly Beach, S.C.



Hanging on Ross Wines of Ruby Valley, Nev., stays on his mount as Another Fletcher stumbles out of the chutes in the saddle bronc event during the first night of the Snake River Stampede at the Idaho Center in Nampa, Idaho.



Presidential art Artist "Sidewalk Sam" is shielded by his hat and an umbrella as he paints an image of President George Washington at Faneuil Hall in Boston as part of an art installation of presidential portraits in conjunction with this week's Democratic National Convention.



Marines on trucks A semitrailer truck decorated with U.S. Marine logos rolls near Granger, Iowa. A Granger-based trucking company is one of about 50 nationwide companies that have donated space on semitrailers to the U.S. Marine Corps.

Woman's fist ends forum

CO DENVER — A woman was arrested after hitting an anti-immigration heckler on the head during an emotional forum on the nation's immigration policies, authorities said.

Audience members began exchanging shouts and curses Thursday after one attendee demanded that the event, sponsored by the First Data Corp., begin with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Halfway through the event, a fist-fight broke out and a woman described by friends as a Hispanic activist was arrested, the Denver Post newspaper reported. No names were released.

During the forum, a panel of six academics and politicians discussed how immigrants affect the nation's economy and debated the merits of a national guest worker program.

An estimated 8 million to 12 million undocumented immigrants live and work in the United States.

Father gets out of jail

NY WARWICK — A man who, with his wife, adopted an infant, then kidnapped him and raised him to adulthood after the adoption was declared invalid, was released from prison Friday after two years.

Barry Smiley, who had admitted taking Matthew Propp to New Mexico to raise him in 1979, left the Mid-Orange Correctional Facility at 9:20 a.m.

Smiley must add his name to the state's sex offender registry.

By law, a person convicted of second-degree kidnapping when the child is younger than 17 and the offender is not the parent must register as a sex offender.

The couple fled to Albuquerque, N.M., with the baby and lived under the aliases Bennett and Mary Propp. The couple surrendered in 2001, but argued that they had acted out of love for the child.

Family dog kills baby boy

TX HOUSTON — A 6-month-old boy has died after being bitten by the family dog — a mixed-breed boxer.

The baby was flown to Memorial Hermann Hospital after being bitten Thursday night, but later died of his injuries, Montgomery County sheriff's deputies said.

Sheriff's deputies said the boy, whose name was not released, was crawling on the floor near the dog's food bowl when he was bitten.

The dog will be quarantined by the Montgomery County animal control office pending the outcome of an investigation, officials said.

Charges are not likely to be filed in the case because the incident appears to be isolated, Montgomery County sheriff's deputies said.

Mountain gets protection

VA STANARDSVILLE — An anonymous donation three weeks ago enabled the Nature Conservancy to close a \$1.5 million deal to buy and protect Hightop Mountain in Shenandoah National Park.

The environmental group bought 703 acres in Greene County,

ty, which was privately owned and under threat of development.

The purchase was made in cooperation with the Piedmont Environmental Council and the Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy. The deal had been in negotiations since August, but it became possible only when the conservancy was given \$3 million three weeks ago.

Cocaine ring busted

TX ABILENE — Authorities arrested 14 people and were searching for 12 more in their investigation of a cocaine crack distribution ring federal prosecutors said operated in North Texas.

A federal grand jury in Lubbock indicted 32 people last month.

The indictment was unsealed Thursday. Seven of those named are in state or federal custody on unrelated charges.

The 32 are accused of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute various quantities of cocaine and crack cocaine.

Thursday's arrests were made in Fort Worth and Abilene.

Scott Edward Conner, 24, of Abilene and Fort Worth is accused in the indictment of being the ring-leader.

Snowboarder sent to jail

CO GLENWOOD SPRINGS — The Texas snowboarder who drunkenly crashed into a group of children at the Sunlight ski area last year has been given three years at a community school for violating probation.

Michael Wolff, 21, of Killeen, Texas, will remain in Garfield County Jail until space becomes available at the San Luis Valley Community Corrections Center in Alamosa, authorities said.

Once he is there, Wolff will enter a 45-day alcohol treatment program.

Wolff pleaded guilty to negligent child abuse and other charges last summer. He crashed into a group of girls taking a ski lesson at Sunlight Mountain Resort in March 2003. One girl suffered a broken leg.

Earlier this month, Wolff admitted to violating probation by failing to finish a substance abuse program, find a job and keep in touch with parole officials.

Pastor hurt in robbery

NY NEW YORK — A Brooklyn pastor suffered facial injuries when he was beaten and robbed by an intruder who allegedly got into the rectory of a Bushwick church through a third-floor window, police said.

Investigators were searching for the intruder, who allegedly entered St. Brigit's Roman Catholic Church at about 5:30 a.m. Thursday and struck the 67-year-old priest in the face before fleeing, police said.

The priest, identified in news reports as Monsignor James Kelly, was taken to Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in stable condition, police said. The intruder reportedly took \$60 to \$80 that had been in Kelly's pants, leaving the wallet still in the pocket.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

OPINIONS

Partisan punches knock out voters' hopes

BY ALAN WOLFE

American politics are more partisan than ever. The American people distrust partisanship more than ever. The conflict between these two forces is as important to the election of 2004 as the contest between Republicans and Democrats.

One of the clearest measures of partisanship is the dollars that candidates can raise. By that measure, the big surprise of the current election is that Democrats can be as partisan as Republicans, since John Kerry has surprised those who thought that he would run out of cash long before the Democratic convention. Instead, his party, much like its opponent, is getting its wealthy supporters to put their money where their mouths are.

Party unity is a second indication of partisanship, and here as well the two parties are geared for battle. Republicans have a reputation for discipline, but no Republican has been as single-minded about making his colleagues too the line as George W. Bush, he even has John McCain appearing in his ads. Yet it is the Democrats who are more unified than ever. Liberal activists by the score are disdaining independent candidate Bill Clinton. The left and right factions within the party are suppressing their differences over gay rights or Iraq to present a common

front. Unlike in the days of comedian Will Rogers, a person can now say, "I belong to an organized party. I'm a Democrat."

In addition, the parties have stopped treating each other as Marquis of Queensbury rules. The majority in many state legislatures draws district lines to ensure seats for itself. Time-honored traditions in Congress — such as bipartisan membership on conference committees — have been set aside. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi and Republican leader Tom DeLay do not just dislike each other, each thinks the other a danger to the republic.

And of course partisanship can be found in the fact that Republicans and Democrats hold different positions on many issues of the day. If you want a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, you're a Republican partisan; if you want to prevent the Supreme Court from overturning Roe vs. Wade, you're with the other guys.

True, Kerry has been careful not to distance himself too much from Bush on Iraq. But this is not Tweedledum and Tweedledee's election.

Yet while the partisans are in full fury, a lot of other Americans do not like politics, and they like partisan politics even less. This is especially true when it comes to the famed wedge issues. The Republicans and the Democrats may

disagree zealously over whether the Constitution should be amended to ban gay marriage, but most Americans simply do not think the issue is that important. Sept. 11 and the war in Iraq have changed the people's mood far more than Washington's.

Wedge issues now seem tawdry and divisive, one reason why none of them, including affirmative action and abortion, are all that prominent.

Nor do Americans appreciate the negative campaigning that partisanship fuels. Incumbents, who have a record to run on, usually run on it; it is a sign of our partisan times that the sitting president is attacking his opponent as if the opponent were the one in the White House. Time will tell whether Bush's attempts to define Kerry negatively — or Kerry's efforts to respond — will work. But polls and voting patterns in the past show that Americans want their candidates upbeat and positive, not mean-spirited and divisive.

Then there is all that money. As they proved when they put sufficient pressure on Congress to pass the McCain-Feingold law, Americans find it unseemly when those with access to money can simply buy access to government. Given that both candidates opted out of public financing in the primaries, pressure could build again for new rules, ones that would not only limit spending but also cut down



on those annoying TV ads the money buys.

From the standpoint of the contest between the parties, the key question is which one will get more votes. In the struggle between partisanship and nonpartisanship, by contrast, the key question is how many will vote. Americans already go to the polls in far lower percentages than they did a century ago, particularly younger Americans. We may well be that the intense partisanship we are witnessing will en-

gerge each party's base and that it will turn around this decline. Or partisanship could sour the independents and centrists and keep them from voting at all, lowering once again the percentage of those who show up.

Partisan myself, I hope for the former outcome. But I would not be surprised if the latter one happened instead.

Alan Wolfe heads the Boli Center for Religion and American Public Life at Boston College. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Teacher's victim now faces more adult situations

BY RHONNIE POLANECZKY

Philadelphia Daily News

She's back. She's looking for love. And, this time around, there's nothing we can — or should — do if it accommodates her.

Sick as it seems, that's the hard truth about the twisted relationship between former elementary-school teacher Mary Kay Letourneau and her onetime student Vili Fualau. Because once you turn 21 in this country, the law says you're free to make as big a mess of your life as you want. It's what makes America great.

So firmly support Fualau's right to live his future, even if it makes me feel sadder than hell to see him do it. Letourneau and Fualau are sure to create a new round of disturbing headlines on Aug. 4, when Letourneau is released from the Washington prison where she's spent seven years.

Their old headlines were written in the late '90s, when Letourneau — then a lonely, 34-year-old mother of four — befriended and seduced Fualau, an emotionally needy sixth-grader.

"We had sex in the gym. We had sex in the girls' bathroom. We had sex in the classroom," Fualau said. Talk about a wide-ranging education.

They both called it love. Prosecutors called it child rape.

Letourneau, who eventually gave birth to Fualau's daughter, did jail time, was released early, ignored a court order to stay away from Fualau and was shipped back to the pokie. Where she gave birth to a second daughter by him.

Has this woman never met a contraceptive she could live with? Experts say that when Letourneau, now 42, is released from prison in two weeks, she likely will seek cus-

tomdy of the two girls, who've been raised by Fualau's mother (Letourneau rarely sees the kids she had with her now-ex-husband).

ASTOUNDINGLY, Fualau, who is now an unemployed, 21-year-old consenting adult, would like to reunite with her — after he petitions the court to rescind the order keeping Letourneau from his arms.

"I'd really like to take one step at a time," he told People magazine. "Get to know each other again, talk about our finances, get married. ... Try to live like normal people with a future."

Oh, dear God.

Like I said, I support Fualau's right to live his life as he sees fit. But right now everything in me hopes like crazy that he lets that judge's order stand. Not just to keep the ever-fertile Letourneau from having more babies she can't care for, but to give Fualau — a tragic figure if there ever was one — a

chance to grow up, to imagine for himself a life in which he can do better than to marry the predator who exploited his vulnerability and stole his childhood.

"The question here is whether he will make a true choice" to be with Letourneau, says James Pedigo, medical director of the Joseph J. Peters Institute, which treats sex offenders and victims of sexual abuse. "Or is he still under her influence?"

"A judge may require him to undergo a psychiatric evaluation before he lifts the restraining order," Pedigo says, "to be sure that the woman won't be of harm to him."

But that's not guaranteed.

The only thing guaranteed, says John Salvesson, is that Fualau is not "your garden-variety 21-year-old."

"This is a person who has experienced childhood sexual abuse, and that has changed him, because it changes everyone,"

says Salvesson, director of the Philadelphia chapter of SNAP — the Survivor Network of those Abused by Priests.

"So is he making the same kind of informed decision that another 21-year-old would make to date or marry a 42-year-old woman? Absolutely not."

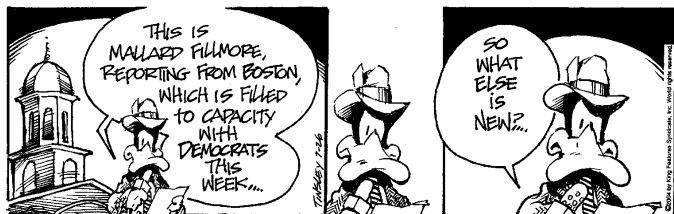
But the problem, as Pedigo and Salvesson both concede, is that damaged adults make bad, uninformed or even despicable decisions about important things every day, not just marriage (see J.Lo) but finances (see Martha Stewart) and child-rearing (see pop-freak Michael Jackson).

And no one stops them, unless they break the law, because life is theirs to ruin as they see fit.

In Fualau's case, his new status as a consenting adult means all we can do is watch as this betrayed-child-turned-grown-up does what he thinks is best — no matter how sad that decision looks to the rest of us.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



FACES 'N' PLACES

Rowling is expecting third baby

"Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling said Saturday she is expecting her third child.

Rowling, 38, made the announcement on her official Web site.



Rowling

"I am really delighted to say that I am expecting a third baby, who is due next year," she said. "I always wanted three children, so I could not be happier."

Rowling's son, David, was born last year following her marriage to Neil Murray in 2001. She has a daughter, Jessica, from a previous marriage to Jorge Arantes.

The author reassured fans that the pregnancy would not affect the release of the next book in the Potter installment, which will be titled "Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince."

"Let me reassure you that book six remains well on track and, fingers crossed of course, I don't foresee any baby-related interruptions or delays," Rowling said.

"I still can't say for sure when it will be finished, but I have written a lot and I really like it."

Einser a 'Fahrenheit' fan

Disney chief executive Michael Eisner has seen "Fahrenheit 9/11," the film that The Walt Disney Co. refused to distribute — and he liked it.

"The reason it is a hit is it's entertaining," Eisner said last week. "I thought it was like going to a rock concert. I loved it, but not in a political [sense]."

Eisner spoke in Aspen, Colo., at Fortune magazine's fourth annual Brainstorm conference, co-hosted by The Aspen Institute.

"Fahrenheit 9/11" criticizes President Bush's response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and the war in Iraq.



Eisner

Eisner has said Disney decided not to distribute the film because its shareholders and customers do not expect it to be a partisan campaign.

Breaking into the biz

After 15 years as a truck driver, the father of "American Idol" Fantasia Barrino is forming his own record label.

His company's first project will be gospel in nature and will "return to the roots" of the Barrino family. Joe Barrino said this week. He plans to collaborate with his nephews, K-Ci and JoJo, who had a hit in 1998 with "All My Life," and his sons, who are in a group called "Infinity." Barrino said he also plans to dabble in R&B and country and clean up rap music, while trying to establish an entertainment industry in his family's hometown of High Point, N.C.

"The door is open. We can do everything we need to do right here. ... Let's be a Hollywood. Let's be an Atlanta. Let's be a New York. Let's be a Chicago. Why can't we do it? ... These are our plans," he said.

Statue of the king

Fans of Elvis Presley are trying to raise \$80,000 to have a statue of the rock 'n' roll icon erected in time for the 50th anniversary of Presley's first appearance on "Louisiana Hayride."

Friends of the Municipal Auditorium in Shreveport, La., and a fan club known as Elvis Angels plan to ask the Downtown Development Authority this week for money, said Johnny Wessler, past president of the auditorium group.

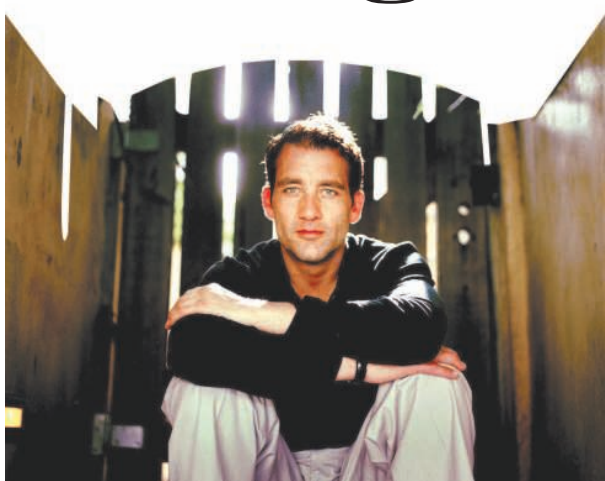
Artist Eric Kaposta of Houston, who formerly lived in Shreveport, said he could have the statue ready in time for the Oct. 16 anniversary if backers can come up with \$20,000, Wessler said.

Wessler said Kaposta has created a bust of Presley that bears such an accurate resemblance to the singer that Memphis, Tenn.-based Elvis Presley Enterprises, which handles Presley's image, agreed to sanction the project.

"The statue will be on a tremendously large granite base that will tell a story and include lyrics from his songs," Wessler said.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

At the gate



Los Angeles Times

British actor Clive Owen unintentionally finds himself poised for American stardom

BY LUIAINE LEE

Knight Ridder/Tribune

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — When he was a school kid in Britain's lower-class Midlands, Clive Owen wanted to be an actor. He didn't even try to hide his passion from his jeering schoolmates.

"Here was me and this guy Dominic, who wanted to be a guitarist. He said 'guitarist' and I'd say 'actor,' and they'd go, 'Ye-a-a-w-h.' The teacher would encourage them to laugh. 'Get real.' But I was a stupid little thing, that's what I kept saying I was going to do."

The star of films like "The Bourne Identity," "Croupier," and now "King Arthur" did it all right, but not the usual way.

He joined a youth theater but when those plays dried up, he found himself "hanging out and signing on."

Signing on, in England, means signing up for welfare and choosing a trade where you might be useful.

For Owen it was carpentry, which absorbed his interest about as much as astrophysics.

Always stubborn, he clung to his dream. Now, as the legendary sovereign in "King Arthur," Owen seems to personify that man of mythic ambitions — both on screen and in real life.

When a teacher first suggested he try studying acting, he rejected the idea.

"I was an arrogant little so-and-so, I said, 'You can't teach people to act, I'm not going to acting school.' She said, 'Clive, that's the way in, that's what you have to do.'"

"I signed on — unemployed for two years in carpentry and thought, 'How am I ever going to be an actor, sitting here signing on in carpentry every week?' I tried to make the money last year over two weeks. By the end that was being stretched to the breaking point, because you signed on to carpentry, you're not going to get acting jobs poured in your lap."

Owen, 38, said he had no other options.

He eventually did apply to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts with little hope that he'd be accepted. Two years later he was accepted.

After training, he started landing work.

"I did a small film that nobody saw and never got released. I did a BBC drama and had quite a nice part, with little gaps in between. It wasn't flooding forward. Then suddenly I landed a very big TV series called 'Chancer,' and it was very much based around me and my character. And the whole campaign was pushing me to the front, and I never looked back."

Even so, sudden fame was unnerving to the reticent actor.

"I hated it. I found it very uncomfortable. Because in the U.K., TV is tabloid fodder so I was suddenly thrown into all the tabloid newspapers."

Fortunately he married former actress Sarah Jane Fenton, who helped him get a grip. "I basically pulled out, stopped doing press for a year, didn't talk to anyone, and got a very bad reputation, but I just thought, 'I need my time with this,'" he said.

"From then on I consciously tried to stay elusive. I've always mixed TV, theater and film up. I was very tempted — I could have become the guy with all the cash. I got off, I wanted to be in for the long haul. I didn't want them to chew me up and spit me out."

The TV series "Second Sight" elevated him to the top of the game and the small film "Croupier" earned him an enviable reputation in the United States. American roles followed, including the assassin in "The Bourne Identity," the relief worker in "Beyond Borders," the ex-con in "Til Sleep When I'm Dead."

But he didn't come to conquer America, said Owen, seated at a white-clothed table in a meeting room of a hotel here.

"It opened up for me, I didn't come here looking for it. It just happened by fluke with that little film, 'Croupier,' which came and made an impact and introduced me to an American audience. I wasn't aiming to come and break America; I was perfectly content in England doing the work I was doing. I didn't feel I was missing out on anything. I love making movies, I want to make movies. They've never made that many in the U.K., but I was still very fulfilled and very determined to do theater, and suddenly 'Croupier' introduced me to an American audience and my life hasn't been quite the same since."

Horoscope

The Scorpio moon tunes us in to the subtleties that shape our environment, and with Mercury now in Virgo, it's even easier to home in on the microscopic details we missed earlier — the clues that will give us that exhilarating "aha!" moment tonight. The moon shifts into Sagittarius, and it's difficult to get to sleep.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(July 26) You're changing your whole base of operation this year. You've got so many wonderful things going on that you feel you no longer have time for the nonsense. Next month brings a leg up on the career front. You'll be able to go much further with a mentor, so find one. Romance through the fall makes you feel like a poet. Love signs are Pisces and Virgo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Synergy: Your life needs it, and your special project won't fly without it. So find people or organizations you work well with because it can't happen on your own. A minute adjustment to your personal life makes a big difference.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Phone calls from a distance both cheer you and fill you with curiosity. What do the callers want, you may wonder. Presume innocence, and you can have a good old time chatting away. Tell someone how grateful you are for help.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) Your intentions may be clear to you but not so to the people around you. State where you're going. You'll get more help, especially from a powerful person. Your family could bombard you because you have the best solutions.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) In the morning, you arise remembering the things that you forgot to do yesterday. What is somebody's birthday? Did you overlook an assignment? Whatever the misstep, correct it before noon, and the damage is minimal.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Capture the respect of those under you at work. Even if it's not "your job,"

pitching in to show that you're not above doing what it takes to make the team run smoothly will earn you all the esteem you desire.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Close relationships are your main focus, though you don't want them to be. Big issues make it impossible for you to go along your merry way — your mind is tied into either worrying or scheming about how to make it all work out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

There's no reason to be jealous of friends who always seem to be taking trips and exploring new parts of the world. Get on the Internet, and book something! It's not as expensive as you might think. Invest in children.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You're so content with your own little bubble of a world that it's hard to let anyone in. But a little change or, better yet, conflict will actually be good for you. Stop screening your calls, and make some daring ones of your own.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

There's a long list of things that have to happen in order for you to pull off a big plan. But don't you worry: Your creativity and bubbling enthusiasm act as a magnet to draw whatever is needed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Your efforts (and your efforts alone) will determine your financial status. This might be hard to accept when it feels like higher-ups have all the power over the size of your paycheck. This is only an illusion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Some think love is a game; others think it is a dance — lately, you see it as an equation to be solved. Your analytical look at love seems to give you more options. If one way doesn't work, there are 1,000 other solutions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Money luck is on the rise. Opportunities to earn more include physical labor, not just coming up with ideas, but you're feeling strong (and can use the exercise). Let go of a nagging and unfulfilling obligation.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



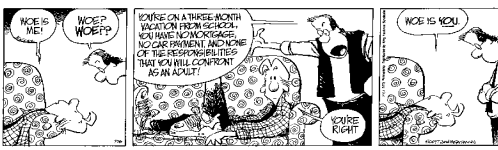
Calvin and Hobbes



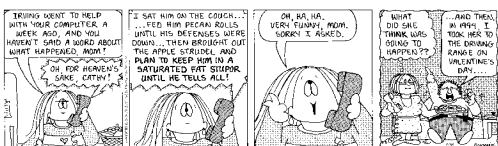
Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



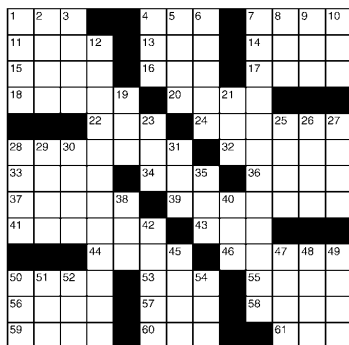
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



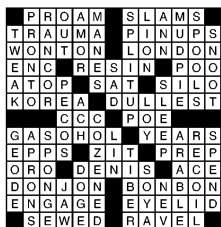
Across

- 1 IRS worker
4 Scenery
7 Move on momentum
11 Stry cry
13 Leading lady?
14 Between assignments
15 Apportion
16 Affirmative action?
17 Double agent
18 Terse
20 Thready streak
22 Corral
24 Peter Pan, e.g.
28 Native dweller
32 Work on a loom
33 Express disapproval
34 Playground game
36 Schusser's gear
37 Flooded
39 Dead giveaway?
41 Curie's find
43 Oktoberfest souvenir
44 Vegan's no-no
46 "Hammerin' Hank"
50 Skydive
53 Sweet potato
55 Storm
56 October birthstone
57 Bikini half
58 Missile shelter

Down

- 59 Movie about a pig
60 Kreskin's claim
61 Lair
1 Search through
2 Wharf
3 Con
4 Coop denizen
5 Say with certainty
6 First-aid provider
7 Monosaccharides
8 Fuss
9 Unhealthy
10 Shelter
12 Don't be obfuscatory
13 That "70s Show" role
14 Make like Johnny Appleseed
15 Fairy queen
23 Bottom line
25 Winnepesaukee, e.g.
26 Hertz rival
27 Whatever's left
28 Convert to carbon
29 Waterloo is there
30 "Wind in the Willows" character
31 Apprehend
35 Prized possession
38 Coloration
40 Sine-on link
42 Possibly
45 "South Pacific" extras
47 Incursion
48 Lothario's look
49 Night light
50 Occupation
51 "Lazy River"
52 Fairy queen
54 Chart

Answer to Previous Puzzle



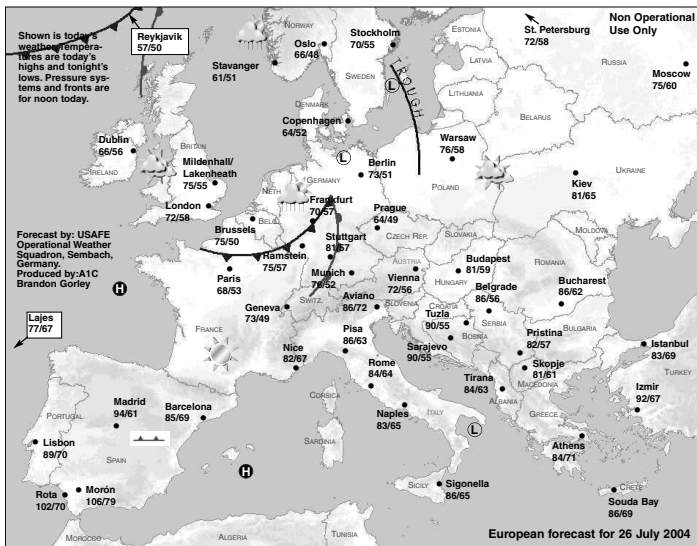
7-26

CRYPTOQUIP

OWD TCMOZJ JZCIIA IWRZV
MOZ WVZC UT QXAWSP C
VWSZJ, DU OZ QUXPOM C

DMZCR WS WM.
Saturday's Cryptquip: IF A GUY IS INTO ATHEISM, YOU MIGHT SAY HE'S PART OF A NONPROPHET ORGANIZATION.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: 1 equals L



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid-60s to mid-70s. Lows in the lower 50s.

Britain, Ireland: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid-60s to mid-70s. Lows in the mid to upper 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 90s. Lows in the mid-50s.

France: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s to lower 70s in the north and 80s in the south. Lows in the 50s to the north and upper 60s in the

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low 70s. Lows in the lower to mid-50s.

Southern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid-70s to lower 80s.

Hungary: Cloudy with light rainshowers. Highs in the lower 80s. Lows in the upper 50s

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower to mid-80s. Lows in the mid-60s to lower 70s.

Southern Italy: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower to mid-80s. Lows in the mid-60s.

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low 80s. Lows in the upper 50s.

Norway: Cloudy with isolated rain-showers. Highs in the mid-60s to lower 70s. Lows in the upper 40s to mid-50s.

Portugal, Spain: Sunny to partly cloudy. Highs in the mid-80s to mid-90s in the north and mid-90s to 106 in the south. Lows in the 60s in the

Turkey: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid-80s to upper 90s. Lows in the mid-50s inland and upper 60s to

lower 70s elsewhere.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home page at <https://ows.sembach.af.mil>

AFRICA

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Cape Town	60	42	Mogadishu	83	73
Dakar	84	76	Nairobi	74	51
Freetown	80	73	Rabat	85	68

THE WORLD

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Amsterdam	66	52	Manila	87	68
Bahrain	113	88	Mexico City	72	55
Beijing	80	64	Montreal	76	59
Beirut	87	73	Riyadh	114	87
Bermuda	86	68	Rio de Jan	74	65
Caracas	81	65	Seoul	84	73
Helsinki	71	54	Sofia	76	60
Hong Kong	89	80	Sydney	83	48
Lisbon	89	67	Tylen	67	76

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

[illegible]

81	65	Rain	San Antonio	88	72	Cody
89	74	Rain	San Diego	77	65	Paddy
75	66	City	San Francisco	78	77	Paddy
80	74	Cody	San Jose	78	65	Paddy
81	74	Rain	San Juan P.R.	78	77	Paddy
82	78	Rain	Seattle	79	78	Paddy
84	62	P.O.D.	St. Louis Marie	78	53	Paddy
79	69	Cody	Stearns	78	65	Paddy
78	73	Rain	Tampa	77	77	Paddy
78	61	City	Shreveport	88	68	Paddy
82	60	Cody	Slovak City	79	56	Cody
80	74	Cody	Stockton	80	74	Paddy
80	65	Cody	South Bend	74	58	Cody
80	74	Cody	Spokane	89	65	Paddy
74	64	Rain	Springfield Ill.	75	59	Cody
86	65	P.O.D.	Springfield Mo.	76	55	Paddy
82	61	Cody	St. Paul	75	65	Paddy
82	61	P.O.D.	Tallahassee	70	74	Rain
72	82	Rain	Tampa St. Pring	78	77	Paddy
82	74	Cody	Texas	78	65	Paddy
88	59	Rain	Tokyo	78	59	Paddy
86	61	Cody	Tucson	87	73	Paddy
88	71	Cody	Tulsa	83	77	Paddy
77	69	Rain	Utopia	96	65	Cody
80	74	Cody	Waco	90	65	Paddy
74	56	P.O.D.	Washington D.C.	80	66	Cody
95	61	Cody	WalPalm Beach	79	75	Rain
82	74	Cody	Wichita Falls	81	65	Paddy
89	78	Cody	Wichita Falls	86	66	Cody
83	57	Paddy	Wilkes-Barre	72	61	Cody
83	74	Cody	Winchester Mass	82	65	Paddy

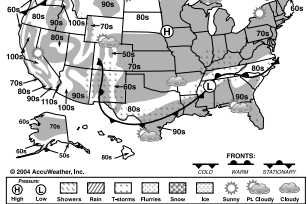
As of noon, Eastern
Bands separate high temperature

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THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day



Check our Relocation Guide
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STARS AND STRIPES

Feeling festive

Schumacher cruises in home GP to match season victory mark

The Associated Press

HOCKENHEIM, Germany — Michael Schumacher won the German Grand Prix on Sunday to tie his own record with 11 victories in a season and close in on his seventh Formula One championship.

Schumacher, who has won all but one race this season, started from the pole and finished 8.3 seconds ahead of Jensen Button. Fernando Alonso was third.

"It's unbelievable," Schumacher said. "What a weekend. Yesterday pole position, today the victory."

"The atmosphere this morning, it was just fantastic, and then to win the race," Schumacher said. "It was great fun."

With the temperature on the track topping 100 degrees, Schumacher raced away from the start and built a 3.3-second lead over Kimi Raikkonen within nine laps. Raikkonen's race ended suddenly on the 14th lap when the rear wing on his McLaren-Mercedes flew off, sending him into a tire barrier. He was unhurt.

By the 25th lap, Schumacher was nearly 15 seconds ahead of Alonso. Button overtook Alonso on the 52nd lap after several challenges, and ended the race briefly three times when Schumacher pitted.

Button qualified third but started 13th after he was penalized for an engine change during qualifying.

"It's difficult because I am so happy to finish second — I am so happy to be the best driver of my career — but it's slightly disappointing because if I'd started third it would have been a different story," Button said. "If I had started where I had qualified, I think we would have really challenged Michael. It's tough to come to terms with that reality."



Michael Schumacher's Ferrari leads the field into the first turn at the start of Sunday's German Grand Prix. Schumacher won the race to tie a record of 11 victories in a season.

Schumacher's Ferrari teammate, Rubens Barrichello, collided with David Coulthard seconds after the start on the first turn, lost a front wing and dropped to 20th. Barrichello finished 12th with a flat tire on the last lap. Coulthard was fourth, followed by Juan Pablo Montoya and Mark Webber.

Schumacher has a virtually insurmountable lead in the driver standings with 110 points to Barrichello's 74. Button, third with 61, could be eliminated from the title contention in the next race, the Hungarian GP on Aug. 15.

Kenseth wins Busch race

LOUDON, N.H. — Matt Kenseth couldn't beat the field with speed, so he did it with strategy Saturday in the crash-filled Siemens 200 NASCAR Busch Series race

at New Hampshire International Speedway.

The reigning Nextel Cup champion, making only his seventh Busch start of 2004, came up with his second victory of the season and 16th of his career.

"We had a good car, but it wasn't good enough to pass everybody," Kenseth, who started 21st in the 43-car field, said. "The team had to come up with a good pit strategy to get by some of those guys. We made an early stop to get track position and it put us in position where we could get past those last four or five guys."

Runner-up Tim Fedewa tried hard to overtake Kenseth, moving alongside the leader on a restart with 13 laps to go. But Kenseth, with the outside position, was able to hold off the challenge and eventually pulled away, winning by 1.51 seconds — about six car-lengths.

Club pro Oakley wins Sr. British Open

The Associated Press

PORTRUSH, Northern Ireland — Club pro Peter Oakley shot a 2-under 70 on Sunday to fend off Tom Kite and Eduardo Romero and win the Senior British Open, his first Champions Tour title.

Oakley, the pro at The Rookery in Rehoboth Beach, Del., who had to qualify for the tournament, chipped out of a greenside bunker and rolled in a 10-foot par putt on the 18th at Royal Portrush to win the major championship by one stroke. His only other tournament victory was the 1999 PGA Club Professional Championship.

He dipped his putter to the ground and took a few seconds to acknowledge the applause of the fans after winning a title previously won by the likes of Gary Player, Bob Charles and Tom Watson.

"I just wasn't sure," said Oakley, who shot a 4-under 284. "Somebody told me that I'm exempt to play on the U.S. senior tour now for a year or something. I just can't believe that. My life is changing right before my very eyes. I don't know what to think."

Oakley, who only decided to join the tour

last November as company for his older brother, David, won \$295,000, almost six times his career earnings of \$54,309.

"That's some cash," he said. "Now I can get out of debt."

Kite shot 69 and Romero 67 to tie at 3-under 285.

Defending champion Tom Watson, who pulled out of last week's British Open because of a shoulder injury, shot a 74 to finish at 9 over for a share of 22nd place.

Rumford rallies to win Irish Open

DROGHEDA, Ireland — Brett Rumford of Australia fired a 5-under-par final round of 67 Sunday for a four-shot victory in the Irish Open at Ballyvaughan.

Rumford finished with a 14-under-par 274 to record his second triumph on the European Tour. The victory was worth \$255,000.

Irishman Padraig Harrington and Raphael Jacquelin of France also shot 67s and shared second place, four shots behind. Third-round leader Peter Lonard of

Australia was another shot behind after closing with a 73.

"I can tell you I'm really burning in," Rumford said. "There's no feeling like this. Your stomach just grinds the whole day. There's not a stage out there where you can relax and feel you have the tournament in the bag."

Three share Milwaukee lead

MILWAUKEE — Brett Quigley shot a 6-under 64 Saturday and moved into a tie for the lead with Carlos Franco and Patrick Sheehan after three rounds of the U.S. Bank Championship.

Quigley had the day's best round on the Brown Deer park course and was at 10-under 200. Franco, who bogeyed the 18th hole, shot 69 and Sheehan 67 in the tournament formerly known as the Greater Milwaukee Open.

Defending champion Kenny Perry (65) was one shot back after birdies on the final four holes, and Jason Dufner (68) and Scott Verplank (67) were two behind.

Twenty-two players were within five shots of the lead.

Ex-Air Force football coach Martin is dead

The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Ben Martin, who put Air Force football on a national footing during 20 seasons as coach, died Saturday at age 83.

Martin recently had a heart attack, Air Force assistant athletic director for media relations Troy Garnhart said Sunday.

"This is a real sad day for Falcon football," current coach Fisher DeBerry said in a statement on the team's Web site. "We enjoy a national prominence because of the foundation Ben Martin built."

Martin, a Navy graduate, took over from Buck Shaw in 1958 and led the Falcons to a 9-0-2 record, including a 0-0 tie against Texas Christian in the Cotton Bowl. He also sent teams to the Gator Bowl (1963) and Sugar Bowl (1970).

Martin retired after the 1977 season with a 96-103-9 record and was replaced by Bill Parcells, later to gain fame as a coach in the NFL.

After retiring from coaching, Martin became a television and radio commentator.

Ex-NBA coach Fitzsimmons dies

PHOENIX — Cotton Fitzsimmons, who won 832 games in 21 seasons as an NBA coach, died Saturday due to complications from lung cancer. He was 72.

Fitzsimmons was executive vice president of the Phoenix Suns, a team he coached on three occasions.

Fitzsimmons had been in a Phoenix-area care center since suffering a stroke earlier this month.

The colorful coach, born in Hannibal, Mo., was a television and radio commentator for the Suns in recent years.

"Cotton Fitzsimmons embodied all things that are good about life and the game of basketball," Suns chairman and CEO Jerry Colangelo said. "His energy, passion and upbeat approach to everything impacted those that he touched in a positive and meaningful way. The Suns, the city of Phoenix and the entire NBA family will miss the game's ultimate coach, teacher and communicator."

Fitzsimmons had coaching stints with Phoenix, Atlanta, Buffalo, Kansas City and San Antonio. He had a 832-775 (.518) record, ranking 10th in victories.

Fitzsimmons went to the NBA from Kansas State, where he coached two seasons, earning Big Eight coach of the year honors in 1970, when he directed the Wildcats to the conference title and the NCAA regional semifinals.

Massu wins General Open

KITZBUHNER, Austria — Third-seeded Nicolas Massu of Chile beat French Open champion Gaston Gaudio of Argentina 7-6 (7-3), 6-4 on Sunday to win the rain-delayed General Open.

Earlier Sunday, Massu ousted top-seeded Rainer Schuettler of Germany 6-3, 6-3 and Gaudio beat Fernando Verdasco of Spain 6-0, 6-2 in semifinal matches postponed from Saturday by rain.

Isinbayeva sets pole vault mark

BIRMINGHAM, England — Russia's Yelena Isinbayeva broke the world record in the women's pole vault on Sunday, clearing 16 feet, 1/2-inch in the Norwich Union International meet.

Isinbayeva's record broke the previous mark of 16 feet set by compatriot Svetlana Feofanova on June 17 in Gdansk, Poland. That broke Isinbayeva's record of 15-11 1/2 set in England on June 27.

Williams tells Dolphins he's decided to retire

BY JASON COLE
AND DAN LE BATARD
The Miami Herald

MIAMI — The Miami Dolphins' series of off-season headaches turned into a crisis this weekend when star running back Ricky Williams told coach Dave Wannstedt he is retiring — a week before training camp.

Despite attempts by friends and colleagues to talk him out of quitting, Williams said Saturday he was overjoyed by his decision, one that has been months in the making.

"You can't understand how free I feel," Williams said before boarding a plane in Hawaii and heading to Asia to begin several months of travel.

Williams, 27, has played five years in the NFL, including the first three with New Orleans. He said he plans to file his retirement papers with the NFL on Monday or Tuesday.

Williams, who was scheduled to be paid approximately \$3.5 million this season, told Wannstedt of his decision Friday and said the coach tried a variety of ways to persuade him to reconsider. Wannstedt, who approved the 2002 trade with New Orleans to acquire Williams from two first-round picks, went so far as to say if Williams were his son, he should tell him to play.

Williams retorted that Wannstedt would want his son to do whatever made him happy. Williams said he was "hurt" by their conversation.

"I have no comment," Wannstedt said when asked about Williams' retiring. "Players report Friday. Right now, it's a 10-day dead period. We'll get everybody started on Friday."

Asked about the conversation he had Friday with Williams, Wannstedt responded,

What's the rush?

A look at NFL running backs who retired while still at the peak of their abilities:

■ **Ricky Williams:** At 27, the Dolphins star announced his decision to retire after posting the top two rushing seasons in team history and in his career the past two years.

■ **Jim Brown:** At 25, after leading the league in rushing in eight of his nine seasons, the Cleveland Browns star retired after the 1965 season.

■ **Barry Sanders:** At 30, and on the verge of breaking Walter Payton's career rushing record, the Detroit Lions star retired in the summer of 1999.

■ **Robert Smith:** At 28, he retired after his best NFL season, when he set a Minnesota Vikings rushing record with 1,521 yards in 2000.

— The Miami Herald

"We've had a conversation, but again, I have no comment."

Asked if there was any chance he could change his mind, Williams said, "No, none."

He certainly doesn't appear to be wavering. He said he has already told his mother, Sandy, his agent, Leigh Steinberg, backup running back Travis Minor and friends and family of his decision. He said anyone who knows him shouldn't be terribly surprised.

Williams said his failed marijuana tests were a minor influence and were among many factors. It didn't cause him to retire, he said, as much as reinforce his reasons for wanting to do so.

In May, Williams was fined four weeks' pay because of a second positive drug test late last season. He appealed the fine and said he has yet to hear the result, but the issue appears moot at this point.

The Dolphins will hold their first practices of training camp Saturday.

Williams said he talked to Wannstedt twice Friday. The coach urged Williams to sleep on his decision.

"He's just hoping I change my mind. But I have considered everything about this," Williams said. "I always try to do the right



Dolphins running back Ricky Williams, left, told head coach Dave Wannstedt that he is retiring, leaving Miami without its best offensive player just a week before training camp.

thing, always. My heart tells me, 'Don't be controlled.'"

Asked what he planned to do after finishing his travels, Williams said he has no plans.

"I have no idea what I'm going to do. Who knows? I just know it's going to be fun," he said.

There figures to be a decidedly different reaction from the Dolphins, who face this season without their best offensive player.

Travis Minor becomes the obvious candidate to succeed Williams in the short term, but Minor has never handled the type of workload Williams has received the past

two years. Aside from Minor, the team has some promising players in Leonard Henry and Fred Russell and likely would use several running backs to fill Williams' role.

Williams' timing couldn't have been worse for the Dolphins. Earlier this week, free agent running backs Antowain Smith and Eddie George signed with Tennessee and Dallas, respectively.

Williams' stunning decision comes after he produced the top two rushing seasons in team history and in his career. He set a team record with an NFL-leading 1,853 yards rushing in 2002. He followed with 1,372 yards last season.

Champ Gatti KO's Dorin in second

BY JOHN CURRAN
The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — No bloody shorts? No broken hand? No down-to-the-wire finish? This wasn't a typical Arturo Gatti fight.

Defending his WBC 140-pound title for the first time, Gatti knocked out top-ranked challenger Leonard Dorin in the second round Saturday and avoided the kind of slugfest that has defined his career.

"It's great to get out of here early," said Gatti, who won the title six months ago.

Gatti (38-6), who is known for leading with his face but winning with his heart, didn't have to do either. He won by a quick \$1.75 million payday.

Holding the shorter Dorin (21-1-1) at bay with left jabs and keeping active to avoid protracted exchanges, he dominated the first round and most of the second.

In between, trainer Buddy McGirt reminded him of what they'd worked on in training camp — using body shots that would take advantage of his 6-inch reach advantage.

"I told him to forget the head and look downstairs," said McGirt, who took over as Gatti's trainer after his disappointing 2001 loss to Oscar De La Hoya.

Gatti, 32, obliged. In the second, he unleashed a left-right-left combination to Dorin's head, then went up and delivered a crushing left hook to the body that nearly lifted the 5-foot-4 Dorin off his feet.

Dorin fell to his right knee, then to both as referee Randy Neumann stepped in and counted him out at



Arturo Gatti, left, drills Leonard Dorin in the first round of the WBC super lightweight championship. Gatti knocked out Dorin in the second round.

2:55 of the round, Gatti leaping into the arms of manager Pat Lynch in celebration.

"I knew he would leave the body open," Gatti said of Dorin. "Once he went down, I knew it was over." Ringside physician Dr. Kenneth Remsen said the punch took Dorin's breath away and caused his stomach to spasm. He may have broken a rib, Remsen said.

Gatti, who broke his right hand in his two previous fights, came away without a mark.

Gatti, who's been rehabilitated from his toe-to-toe tendencies by McGirt, controlled the tempo from the start and denied the partisan crowd of 11,863 in Boardwalk Hall the brawl they came to see.

"It was the first time in my life I got hit in the body and went down," Dorin said.

MetroStars edge Fire, give Bradley 100th win as coach

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Coach Bob Bradley earned his 100th MLS victory and the MetroStars defeated the Chicago Fire 2-1 Saturday on a second-half goal by John Wolyniec.

Chris Armas scored for Chicago, which is winless in its past eight games (0-5-3).

Bradley, the winningest coach in MLS history, is 70-70-29. He won 82 games as coach of the Fire.

Burn 5, United 1: Eddie Johnson scored two goals and had two assists and Brad Davis had two goals and an assist to lead Dallas at home.

The five goals were the most that United (5-7-6) has given up this season.

Freddy Adu, the teenage prodigy who made his seventh start of the season for United, forced an own goal by drilling a shot at the Burn goal from the left corner, which Cory Gibbs unsuccessfully attempted to deflect away with his head.

Galaxy 2, Wizards 2: Tyrone

MLS roundup

Marshall scored in second-half stoppage time for the tie, which kept the visiting Galaxy (9-5-6) in first place in the Western Conference, one point ahead of the Wizards (9-4-5).

Kansas City extended its unbeaten streak to nine.

Revolution 2, Earthquakes 2: Landon Donovan and Brian Ching scored in injury time, rallying host San Jose to a tie.

Donovan, the U.S. national team's star forward, scored his fourth goal of the season in the opening minute of extra time.

Ching assisted on the goal and followed it with his own three minutes later, converting a pass from Dwayne De Rosario moments before the final whistle.

Crew 0, Rapids 0: Colorado was outshot 8-6 on its home field, but goalkeeper Joe Cannon and Columbus keeper Jon Busch each recorded their sixth shutout.

The Rapids haven't allowed a goal in 415 minutes.

Champions crowned in U.S. Forces Europe tennis

BY RUSTY BRYAN

Stars and Stripes

HEIDELBERG, Germany — The four singles titles decided Sunday in the U.S. Forces Europe tennis championships were evenly divided between retention and redemption.

Men's open champion Roy Tannis of Darmstadt and women's champion Philisa Legrier of Heidelberg retained their titles in straight sets. Tannis downed Sunday Muniz of RAF Dawes Hill, England, 6-1, 6-2 and Legrier defeated Susan Flynn 6-2, 6-1.

Redemption came to 60-year-old masters champion Jim Moss of Kaiserslautern, who topped the player who defeated him in last year's semifinals, Mannheim's Dennis Kirsten, 2-6, 6-4, 7-5, and to seniors champion Jim Hewitt of Brunsum, Netherlands. Hewitt reversed the outcome of last year's title match for players aged 30-39 by downing Heidelberg's Doug Whitley 6-2, 6-4.

"I felt pretty good right from the start," said Hewitt, who lost to Whitley, a 50-year-old who prefers playing seniors, 3-6, 3-6, last year. "It was nice to get the win."

Moss felt the same way after settling the score against Kirsten.

Asked what was working for him on Sunday, Moss, a University of Maryland English and philoso-



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Lynda Hewitt hits a return during the women's doubles final in the U.S. Forces Europe tennis championship on Sunday. Hewitt and Renee Riddle lost to Philisa Legrier and Leah Creighton, 6-2, 6-0.

ophy teacher who suffered a stroke 14 months ago, answered, "Willpower."

"I played five sets of doubles yesterday that he didn't play," Moss said. "Last year he beat me 7-5 in the final set. I was happy to get back at him."

Moss added that he was happy to get back at all, never mind against whom.

"I feel good just to be alive," Moss said. "A year ago May 21, I couldn't walk and could barely talk. This is a tribute to the doctors at Landstuhl (Regional) Medical Center."

Tannis, who beat Muniz 6-2,

6-1 in last year's title match, was just as dominant this year. The Darmstadt ace rarely went to his second serve on Sunday, but Kalfuz said return of service was the least of his problems.

"He killed me," Muniz said, "but it wasn't his serve. He beat me with shot placement. He wore me out running me around."

Tannis agreed.

"He has a very solid all-around game," Tannis said, "but I think conditioning made the difference. He gets a little tired."

Tannis ended both sets by breaking Muniz's service.

"I saw him play Wednesday," Tannis said, "and I was able to read his serve pretty well."

For the second straight year, Legrier won two titles despite being deserted by an important part of her game. After downing Flynn for the singles crown, she teamed with Leah Creighton of Heidelberg to win the women's doubles crown 6-2, 6-0 over Lynda Hewitt and Renee Riddle.

"My serve was awful today," the former West Georgia University varsity player said. "I didn't get many first serves in."

Creighton also took the women's doubles crown, she teamed with 62-year-old Jim Matoszek to take the mixed doubles crown 7-5, 7-6 (8-6) over Nelson McMicken and Wendy Kerr. It was the duo's second straight mixed doubles crown.

Muniz, despite a sore right wrist, elbow and shoulder, teamed with Joel Bond to take the men's doubles crown 6-3, 7-6 (7-4) over Jeff Kirkdorn and Kristopher Joseph.

Record: Armstrong proves he's not past his prime

RECORD, FROM BACK PAGE

Eye-catching in the bright yellow race leader's jersey, Armstrong donned a golden cycling helmet for a relaxed roll past sun-baked fields of wheat and applauding spectators into Paris from Montreuil in the southeast. He joked and chatted with teammates who wore special blue jerseys with yellow stripes. They stretched in a line across the road with their leader for motorcycle-riding photographers to record the moment. The team was the muscle behind Armstrong's victory, leading him in grueling mountain climbs, shielding him from crashes and wind, and keeping him stoked with drinks and food.

Last year, Armstrong beat Ullrich by 61 seconds — by far his narrowest victory. He now admits he was not in great shape. "I paid the price and learned a valuable lesson, and I won't ever make that mistake again," he said.

This year, he roared back with renewed fire.

With five solo stage wins and a team time-trial victory with his U.S. Postal Service squad, this was Armstrong's best Tour. But it was also one in which he was forced to defend himself against claims he might be taking performance-enhancing drugs.

Repeatedly pointing out he has never failed a test, Armstrong attributes his success to hard training and says the accusations only fueled his motivation.

Last week, he chased down Filippo Simeoni, an Italian rider who has testified about drug use within cycling, when he tried to surge ahead of the pack to win a stage. Armstrong's team also chased down Simeoni several times when he rode at the front on Sunday.

Before the Tour, Armstrong sued authors of a book who implied, without offering proof, that he used drugs.

"They want to create pressure that cracks you," Armstrong said. "So, internally I say, 'OK, I will never crack because of that. This will not crack me.'"

Armstrong built his lead from Day 1, placing second in the third-fastest debut time trial in Tour history. That performance silenced doubts that Armstrong, at 32, was past his prime.

"He's been the strongest man for the last six years," Kloden said. "It's unbelievable."

Even more so than in other Tours that he dominated, Armstrong finished off rivals in the mountains — with three victories in the Alps, including a time trial on the legendary climb to L'Alpe d'Huez, and another in the Pyrenees. He also took the final time trial on Saturday, even though his overall lead was so big he didn't need to win it.

"We never had a sense of crisis, only the stress of the rain and the crashes in the first week," Armstrong said. "I was surprised that some of the rivals were better. Some of them just completely disappeared."

Basque rider Iban Mayo peaked too early when he beat Armstrong in the war-torn Basque phone Libere race three weeks before the Tour.

Mayo crashed in the Tour's rain-soaked, nervous first week, racing toward a treacherous stretch of cobblestones that Armstrong crossed safely. Mayo finally abandoned the race after the Pyrenees, his morale shot after two disappointing rides in the mountains where he'd hoped to win in front of Basque fans. Former Armstrong teammates Roberto Heras, left trailing in the mountains, and American Tyler Hamilton, badly bruised in a crash, also went home.

Ullrich, the 1997 champion and a five-time runner-up, never recovered from seeing Armstrong zoom into the distance for two straight days in the Pyrenees.

The only rider to stay with Armstrong there was Basso, a 26-year-old who made the makings of a future winner. He came out of the Alps, where Armstrong for the first time in his career won three consecutive stages, in second place overall.

But Kloden, the German champion and Ullrich's teammate, outdid the soft-spoken Basso in the final time trial, placing third behind Armstrong and Ullrich. That ride propelled Kloden, who did not complete last year's Tour, into second spot in the stadium, pushing Basso back to third.

"I never would have predicted Kloden before the Tour. But you could see he was really strong and skinny in the first week," Armstrong said.

Armstrong still hasn't decided whether he will be back next year. He said he would like to stay above all others, for which he trains relentlessly, leaving his three children in Texas with former coach Kesteven, while he pounds the roads in Europe.

"I don't know what I'll do next summer. I suspect I'll be here. It's too big of a race. My only hesitance is I think the people and the event perhaps need a change, new faces, a new winner," he said. "If I'm here, I race to win."

Seven victories would be like owning seven sports cars, nice but not necessary. Armstrong says he's interested in trying other races — the Tour of Italy, Classics, and beating the one-hour cycling world record held by Britain's Chris Boardman.

After more than 1,900 miles of racing, riders mostly took it easy on the 101-mile final stage, until they reached the crowd-lined Champs-Elysees. Some took souvenir photos of themselves as they rode, and Armstrong even stopped by the side of the road momentarily to adjust his saddle. He also clanked with a young rider Axel Merckx, whose father, Eddy, is one of the five-time champions Armstrong passed. The other two Frenchmen, Bernard Hinault and Jacques Anquetin, and Spaniard Miguel Indurain.

Victory has brought Armstrong fame and wealth and softened some of the brashness he displayed as a young rider. He's learned rudimentary French and says his love of the Tour won't end with retirement — when he plans to watch the race on TV.

"I love the Tour de France," he said. "It's my baby."

Associated Press writer Jerome Pagniere contributed to this report.



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The Giants' Barry Bonds, celebrating his 40th birthday, bats during the fourth inning in St. Louis on Saturday.

Cardinals give Giants' Bonds costly free pass on birthday

Sluggish celebrates turning 40 with 10th-inning win

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — On Barry Bonds' 40th birthday, the St. Louis Cardinals made somebody else beat him.

A day after Bonds' three-run, seventh-inning home run contributed to a San Francisco Giants' victory, he drew his major league-leading 79th intentional walk at a key spot in the Giants' 5-3, 10-inning victory.

"A game on his birthday is like any other game for him," manager Felipe Alou said. "The other team is so busy worrying about him, thinking about when will he be next and what will the situation be. He's a factor no matter what day it is."

The Giants went ahead for good in the 10th on Edgardo Alfonzo's two-run homer off Ray King (3-1) and sent the Cardinals to their first extra-inning loss in seven games this season.

Felix Rodriguez (3-4) got the last out in the ninth, and Jason Christiansen got the last out in the 10th for his second save.

Pinch-hitter Pedro Feliz had put the Giants ahead 3-2 with a two-out infield hit in the ninth. An RBI double by pinch-hitter Marlon Anderson off Jim Browner in the bottom half tied it.

Braves 5, Mets 2: Julio Franco's game-tying double keyed Atlanta's four-run rally in the eighth inning at Shea Stadium against a struggling New York bullpen.

Leading 2-1, the Mets turned the game over to Mike Stanton at the start of the eighth. But Chipper Jones opened with a single and scored the tying run on Franco's double. That finished Stanton (0-4), who left to a chorus of boos.

Adam LaRoche delivered a sacrifice fly off Braden Loper to give the Braves the lead.

It was the Mets eighth loss in 11

NL Roundup

games and the fourth straight loss in which the bullpen has taken the defeat.

Pirates 14, Reds 4: Jason Kennedy's two-run double put Pittsburgh ahead during a seven-run sixth inning as the home team batted from three runs down to beat Cincinnati.

Jason Bay had two hits in the inning and Craig Wilson added a two-run single to help the Pirates overcome Cincinnati leads of 3-0 and 4-1 and win their 19th in 25 games.

Barry Larkin homered among his three hits, moving him past Dave Concepcion into second place in Reds history with 2,327 hits, but Cincinnati still lost its fourth in a row.

Astros 6, Brewers 3: Tim Lincecum pitched three-hit ball over five innings in his return to Houston's starting rotation to beat visiting Milwaukee.

Adam Everett and pinch-hitter Jason Lane homered for the Astros, who had three sacrifice flies in the game.

Redding (4-6) struck out six and walked three. Brad Lidge pitched the ninth for his 10th save.

Ben Hendrickson (0-3) gave up four runs — three earned — and seven hits in four innings.

Expos 6, Marlins 2: Andy Chavez hit a tying two-run triple in the sixth, then scored the go-ahead run on Jamey Carroll's sacrifice fly to lead Montreal over Florida at Olympic Stadium.

Rocky Biddle (2-4) allowed two runs and six hits in six innings, his longest outing in three starts since joining the rotation.

Montreal, which was out

10-6, extended a winning streak to three for the first time since June 19-22.

Dontrelle Willis (7-6) extended his scoreless streak against Montreal to 17¹/₂ before giving up three runs, two earned — in the sixth inning.

Dodgers 12, Padres 2: Adrian Beltre hit his third career grand slam and Shawn Green added a three-run shot as Los Angeles routed visiting San Diego for its 17th victory in 19 games.

Jason Encarnacion followed Green's seventh-inning homer with a solo shot and also robbed Ryan Klesko of a three-run homer in the first to help maintain the Dodgers' 3¹/₂-game lead in the NL West over San Francisco.

Wilson Alvarez (4-4) allowed a run and five hits over seven innings with five strikeouts and one walk.

Beltre capped a six-run fourth against Ismael Valdez (9-6) with a towering drive deep into the left-field pavilion after RBI singles by Alex Coca and Cesar Izuris.

Rockies 8, Diamondbacks 2: Vinny Castilla tied a career high by homering in his fourth straight game as Colorado won in Phoenix to hand Arizona its 13th straight loss in June.

Castilla broke a 1-all tie with his leadoff shot off rookie Lance Cormier in the fourth inning — his fifth homer during the run and 21st of the year.

Aaron Miles, Todd Helton and Larry Walker also had solo shots against Cormier (0-2).

Jamey Wright (1-0), who signed Thursday as a free agent from Kansas City's Triple-A team, allowed five hits and four walks for his first big league win since shutting out Detroit on Sept. 13 for the Royals.

Abbott ends drought, gives Phillies key win

By MIKE GARAFALO

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Paul Abbott, who had gotten little run support from his teammates, helped himself.

Abbott got his first win with the Phillies and drove in the first two runs of his career to lead Philadelphia over the Chicago Cubs 4-3 Saturday.

Abbott (1-4), signed on June 9 after Tampa Bay released him, allowed three runs and seven hits in 5¹/₂ innings for his first win since April 21. He lost his first four decisions with the Phillies and hadn't won since April 21.

"Dying for a win? That's an understatement," Abbott said. "I needed to get that out of the way. I'm officially a Phillie now."

Before his single in the fourth put Philadelphia ahead 4-2, Abbott had been 4-for-18 at the plate in his career. Abbott threw 80 pitches and left after Aramis Ramirez's solo homer in the sixth.

"I was just trying to see the ball and get a good pitch to hit," Abbott said. "I didn't see it go through. It was probably a 50-hop."

Abbott left the game with the lead, but had to sit through 3¹/₂ agonizing innings while icing his arm in the clubhouse.

Roberto Hernandez and Rhee Cormier combined to pitch two scoreless innings. Then, with closer Billy Wagner unavailable because of a strained left shoulder, Tim Lincecum got six outs for his 10th save in 14 chances.

Worrell allowed a leadoff double to pinch-hitter Tom Gooden in the ninth before retiring the next two hitters. He fell behind Sammy Sosa 3-1, then threw a slider on the outside corner. Sosa dropped the bat and started to trot to first. He stopped when he heard plate umpire Joe West call the pitch a strike.

"I thought it was a ball," Sosa said. "He just didn't make that call."

Worrell threw another pitch in the same spot and got Sosa swinging to end the game.

Sosa and Derrek Lee homered for the second straight game for Chicago, which had won three in a row. Sosa homered in the first, reaching 20 for the 12th straight season and pulling within four of Reggie Jackson with the 559th of his career.

Chicago starter Carlos Zambrano (9-6), pitching while he appeals a five-game suspension given after he hit Jim Edmonds of St. Louis twice with pitches Monday, allowed four runs, eight hits and three walks in 6¹/₂ innings. He has lost three straight starts and four of five.

Jays' Hentgen retires after sub-par first half

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Former Cy Young Award winner Pat Hentgen retired Saturday in the middle of a poor season for the Toronto Blue Jays.

The 35-year-old right-hander is 2-9 with a 6.95 ERA after returning to the Blue Jays last offseason.

MLB briefs

"It's been a tough grind for me, mentally and physically," Hentgen said. "I'm not just helping the club like I want to. I always told myself I would retire from baseball if I felt like I couldn't do what I'm used to doing. I think it's the right time."

Hentgen won the 1996 AL Cy Young Award, going 20-10 with a 3.22 ERA. The three-time All-Star spent 14 seasons in the majors, going 131-112 with a 4.32 ERA. He also pitched for St. Louis and Baltimore.

"I'm definitely relieved because it's been on my mind for about a month," said Hentgen, who was dropped from the rotation in June.

Drafted by Toronto in 1986, Hentgen spent his first nine seasons in the majors with the Blue Jays before being traded after the 1999 season to St. Louis.

"I always said when I played here that I'd like to retire as a Blue Jay, and I do and I love it," he said.

Top Marlins draft pick went to hospital after pain overdose

PEABODY, Mass. — Florida Marlins draft pick Jeff Allison spent three days in the hospital because of a heroin overdose, according to police.

Allison was hospitalized after he and a friend split a bag of heroin on July 17, Lynn police Lt. John Scannell told The Salem News.

Allison was the Marlins' top pick in the June draft — 16th overall — after a standout career at Peabody High School, where he went 8-0 and didn't allow an earned run in 63¹/₂ innings during his senior season. He signed for a \$3 million bonus.

In May, he left the Marlins' minor league training camp under permission for undisclosed reasons less than a month after re-teaching himself to swim. He acknowledged to Boston-area media that he had a problem with the painkiller OxyContin.

Red Sox acquire RHP Adams

TORONTO — The Toronto Blue Jays traded right-hander Adam Adams to the Boston Red Sox on Saturday for a minor leaguer.

Adams went 4-4 with a 3.98 ERA in 42 games. He lost his job as Toronto's setup man earlier this season.

The 31-year-old Adams signed a one-year, \$1.7 million contract with the Red Sox after playing for Philadelphia in 2003.

Mueller lands final blow in brawl-filled game

Walk-off two-run homer gives Boston emotional 11-10 win over N.Y.

By DAVID HEUSCHKE

The Hartford Courant

BOSTON — For all the drama these teams have staged over the years, the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees managed to cram what seemed like a season's worth into one game Saturday.

The 34,501 fans who packed into Fenway Park witnessed what may serve as a precursor to October, an emotionally charged game that definitely packed a punch. And to think it was close to being postponed because the field was drenched from overnight and morning rain.

Bill Mueller delivered the final blow with one out in the ninth inning. His two-run homer off Mariano Rivera capped a comeback that gave the Red Sox an 11-10 victory in a thriller that featured a brawl, which will undoubtedly be a backdrop if the teams meet for a second straight year in the ALCS.

No word on when the DVD will be released.

"You play every game like it's the last game you'll ever play and you need to win," Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez said. "That's how good teams go about it."

Rodriguez was one of the main combatants in the brawl, taking exception to being hit by a 1-and-1 pitch from Bronson Arroyo in the third that may have been retaliation from the previous game, when Yankees reliever Tom Gordon drilled Nomar Garciaparra.

"I get hit a lot," Rodriguez said. "But I smelled something funny and I didn't like it."

Arroyo, second in the AL with 14 hit batters, said Rodriguez would know better.

"He's been around the game long enough to know," Arroyo said. "I threw a sinker in there. The ball bounced into him. It got him on the elbow pad. If I had thrown a strict four-seamer and hit him in the ribs, maybe it looks obvious. But the guy dives out over the plate and hits balls 500 feet from center, so I'm going to try to get in on him."

Rodriguez flipped the bat and was glaring out to the mound as he started walking slowly toward first. Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek stepped in front of Rodriguez to make sure he didn't change the mound, and they started jawing.



AP

Yankees catcher Jorge Posada looks on as Boston's Bill Mueller hits a game-winning home run in the ninth inning against closer Mariano Rivera. The two-run shot capped a wild 11-10 Red Sox win that included a dugout-clearing brawl in the third inning.

"Obviously, anybody who gets hit isn't too happy," Varitek said.

"So he was yelling a few things at Bronson. I told him, in choice words, to get to first base. And then it changed from him yelling at Bronson to yelling at each other, and then things got out of hand."

Said A-Rod: "I'm not going to get into [what Varitek said]. What's said on the battlefield shouldn't be repeated anywhere else. But I'll say this, this escalates the rivalry to even a higher level."

As plate umpire Bruce Froemming stepped between them, Rodriguez appeared to challenge Varitek by saying,

"C'mon," among other four-letter words. Varitek took him up on it, initiating contact by shoving Rodriguez. Both dugouts and bullpens emptied.

As a melee ensued, Yankees starter Tanyon Sturtze raced in and grabbed outfielder Gabe Kapler around the neck from behind. David Ortiz and Trot Nixon then went after Sturtze and wrestled him to the ground near the on-deck area.

"It's an emotional game," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "You'd like to believe you can play like a board game, but you can't. There are people involved. There are emotions. It's a high-energy situation. You



AP

The Yankees' Alex Rodriguez, left, and Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek ignite a third-inning brawl. Both players were ejected from the game, along with Boston's Gabe Kapler and New York's Kenny Lofton.

certainly wish it would turn out differently, but I can't fault anybody."

Three innings after tempers flared, the bats took over. The marathon sixth took more than an hour—1 hour, 5 minutes, 18 seconds from the first pitch to last.

The Yankees threw what looked like a six-run knockout punch to take a 9-4 lead. The Red Sox countered with four in the bottom half.

Ruben Sierra led off the seventh with a homer to make it 10-8. The next three batters reached out to answer the bases with none out, but reliever Alan Embree escaped the jam to keep the Red Sox within striking distance.

Nomar Garciaparra led off the ninth with a double and scored on a one-out single by Kevin Millar. Mueller followed by driving a 3-1 cutter from Rivera over the right field fence to win it.

Rivera (1-1) had saved 23 in a row. Former Yankee Ramiro Mendoza (1-0) earned the win with two hitless innings. Having been ejected in the first for arguing a call at second base, Red Sox manager Terry Francona watched the winning hit on a TV in the clubhouse.

"I jumped right out of my shoes," said Francona, who joined the players mobbing Mueller at the plate. "When I went out on the field, I had no shoes on."

White Sox edge ahead in Central on Crede's clutch home run

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Joe Crede and the Chicago White Sox let the rest of the American League know they are still in the playoff picture — even without Magglio Ordonez and Frank Thomas.

Crede hit a two-run double in the seventh inning and a game-ending home run in the ninth to rally the White Sox over the Detroit Tigers 7-6 Saturday night.

The White Sox, already without Thomas, learned Friday that four-time All-Star Ordonez could miss the rest of the season because of an injured knee.

"The game tonight was big, it lets everybody know that we can come back," Crede said. "With our White Sox out of the lineup right now, it gives us the confidence in the fact that we can come back from a deficit like that."

Chicago won its fourth straight overall, its sixth straight at home and moved ahead of Minnesota into the AL Central lead. The White Sox trailed 4-0 in the fifth inning and 6-2 in the seventh before coming back to send the Tigers to their sixth loss in eight games.

Chicago has 29 comeback victories this season and is 10 games over .500, which is a season high.

Crede homered with one out in the ninth on a 3-2 pitch from Ugueth Urbina (3-5), the fourth game-ending homer of Crede's career.

Athletics 6, Rangers 2: Mark Kotsay homered twice to help Oakland snap a three-game losing streak.

Kirk Saarloos (2-1) pitched five innings for the A's, who pulled within 3½ games of the

AL Roundup

first-place Rangers in the AL West. Justin Duchescher, Jim Mccr and Octavio Delgado combined to pitch four scoreless innings of relief.

Saarloos allowed two runs, three hits and five walks in his fourth start of the season. R.A. Dickey (5-7) allowed eight hits and four runs in 5½ innings.

Eric Chavez also homered for Oakland, a two-run shot in the seventh.

Orioles 4, Twins 2: Miguel Tejada homered and drove in two runs to back Sidney Ponson as Baltimore snapped visiting Minnesota's five-game winning streak.

Ponson (5-12) won consecutive

starts for the second time this season. The right-hander gave up two runs, four hits and four walks in seven innings.

David Newhan drove in the tie-breaking run with a seventh-inning sacrifice fly, and the Orioles' bullpen made it stand up.

Blue Jays 4, Devil Rays 2: In Toronto, Josh Towers won his third straight start for the Blue Jays and extended Tampa Bay's losing streak to five games.

Since moving a season-high two games over .500 on July 3, the Devil Rays have won 5-1.

Towers (5-3) allowed two runs — one earned — and six hits in seven innings.

Indians 10-4, Royals 2-3: Rookie Grady Sizemore's RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning gave Cleveland a sweep of the day-night doubleheader at Jacobs Field.

Sizemore's base hit to left on a 3-2 pitch from Rudy Seanez — Kansas City's fourth pitcher in the ninth — scored pinch-runner Tim Laker and capped Cleveland's two-run rally.

Matt Miller (3-1) struck out five in two innings as the Indians won their third straight and moved to .500 (49-49) for the first time since July 2.

Angels 8, Mariners 4: Darin Erstad and Josh Paul each hit two two-run homers during the ninth, five-run rally in the seventh inning to lead the Angels in Seattle.

Robb Quinlan also homered and went 3-for-4 with three RBIs in Anaheim's third straight victory. Erstad drove in three runs and now has 12 RBIs in the last 11 games.

Quinlan homered off Mariners starter Ron Villone in the sixth.

SPORTS



Mueller delivers knockout blow
in latest Red Sox-Yankees slugfest,
Page 31

Armstrong rolls to record

U.S. cyclist wins unprecedented sixth straight Tour de France

BY JOHN LEICESTER
The Associated Press

PARIS — Lance Armstrong rode into history Sunday, winning a record sixth Tour de France and cementing his place as one of the greatest athletes of all time.

Never in its 101-year history has the Tour had a winner like Armstrong — who eight years ago was given less than a 50 percent chance of overcoming testicular cancer that spread to his lungs and brain.

His streak of six straight crowns has helped reinvigorate the greatest race in cycling, steering it into the 21st century. And the Tour, as much a part of French summers as langui-
meals over chilled rosé, molded Armstrong into a sporting superstar.

No. 6: The achievement was almost too much for even Armstrong to comprehend.

"It might take years. I don't know. It hasn't sunk in yet. But six, standing on the top step on the podium on the Champs-Élysées is really special," he said.

The ride into Paris and its famous tree-lined boulevard was a lap of honor Armstrong savored with a glass of champagne in the saddle. Even Jan Ullrich, his main adversary in previous years, gulped down a glass offered by Armstrong's team manager through his car window.

"The last laps there, I thought, 'Ah, I want to get this over with,' " Armstrong said. "But then I thought to myself, 'You know, you might want to do a few more laps, because you may not ever do it again.' And you can't take it for granted."

President Bush called soon after his fellow Texan crossed the finish line. "You're awesome," Bush told him.

With the Arc de Triomphe in the background, Armstrong put his yellow bicycle cap over his head during the raising of the American flag and playing of "The



Lance Armstrong holds a placard reading "6" for his six consecutive victories in the Tour de France as he stands next to fans on Paris' Champs Élysees avenue Sunday. The Texan finished 6 minutes, 19 seconds ahead of runner-up Andreas Klöden of Germany.

Star-Spangled Banner." It might be his last time on the podium, at least for a while. Armstrong has said he might skip the sport's showcase event next year.

Belgian Tom Boonen won the final sprint, with Armstrong cruising safely behind with the trailing pack.

Armstrong's winning margin over second-placed Andreas Klöden of Germany was 6 minutes, 19 seconds, with Italian

Ivan Basso in third (6:40). Ullrich was fourth (8:50), his worst finish.

Armstrong opened a new page for the Tour in 1999, one year after the race faced its worst doping scandal, ejecting the Festina team after police caught one of its employees with a stash of drugs.

Armstrong's victories and his inspiring comeback from cancer have drawn new fans to a race that has been won five times

by four other riders. His professionalism, attention to detail, grueling training regimens and tactics have raised the bar for other riders hoping to win the three-week cycling marathon.

"He's changed the Tour forever," said fellow American rider Bobby Julich. "He has set the blueprint for success, and he deserves all the success that he is getting."

SEE RECORD ON PAGE 28

Unhappy campers:
RB Williams
stuns Dolphins
by deciding
to retire after only
five NFL seasons

Page 27



**Some players
get measure
of revenge
in U.S. Forces
tennis
championships**

Page 28

Michael Schumacher ties own mark with 11th F1 victory

Page 26